



Gulliver's Travels

Voyages to Lilliput, Brobdingnag,
Laputa, and the Country of the
Houyhnhnms

BY

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*TEXT ABRIDGED AND ADJUSTED, WITH NOTES
FOR INDIAN READERS*

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PREFATORY NOTE

In this volume an attempt is made to present the whole of *Gulliver's Travels*. In the case of the first two Voyages, Lilliput and Brobdingnag, the text of the edition in Blackie's "Stories Old and New" has been followed. The second two Voyages need rather special treatment as much of the satire is uninteresting nowadays, and often hardly intelligible, while, on the other hand, as there are many incidents and references in these two Voyages that have become current in English literature—such as the Laputans extracting sunbeams from cucumbers—it is necessary that every educated person should know the stories. In adjusting these two parts, therefore, the intention of the editor has been to retain whatever in them is generally interesting and has formed the source of literary reference.

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INTRODUCTION

We are apt to look upon Swift as an Irishman, on account of his long residence in Ireland and of his zealous efforts in behalf of the Irish people; but he was, in fact, of purely English descent. His grandfather, the Reverend Thomas Swift, who came of a Yorkshire family, was Vicar of Goodrich, near Ross, in Herefordshire. Thomas Swift died in 1658, leaving a number of sons, of whom Jonathan, the father of our author, was the seventh or eighth in order of birth. This Jonathan Swift went to Ireland on his father's death to try his fortune there, but met with little success. He married Abigail Erick, the penniless daughter of a Leicestershire family, and had little to support his household beyond a legal appointment of small value. He died in 1667, survived by his wife and a daughter. He did not live to see the birth of his son JONATHAN SWIFT, which took place in Dublin on 30th November of the same year.

The young widow was for the most part dependent on her husband's eldest brother, Godwin Swift, who had preceded her husband to Ireland, and had become a successful lawyer in Dublin. The boy was sent by his uncle at the age of six to the grammar school of Kilkenny, and at fourteen proceeded to Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1686. His uncle's death in 1688 deprived him of the support on which he had hitherto depended, and brought his college career to an end before he had taken his Master's degree.

His mother had meanwhile been living in Leicester; and there he now joined her. She was connected with the wife of Sir William Temple, a statesman of some eminence who had retired from public life, and who about this time took up his abode at Moor Park, near Farnham, Surrey; and before the close of 1689 Swift entered Sir William's service. His position in the household appears to have been at first a humble one, his duties being to amuse his patron, to keep accounts, and to make himself useful as an attendant. This kind of life does not seem to have suited Swift's temper; and in May, 1690, he went back to Ireland, but finding no prospects of fortune there returned to England in the autumn of 1691, and settled again at Moor Park, apparently on more agreeable terms. On 14th June, 1692, he was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Oxford, and on 5th July became Master of Arts. Of his residence at the University almost nothing is known.

Swift again quitted Moor Park in May, 1694, after a quarrel of some kind with Sir William Temple, and proceeded to Ireland to seek ordination. He was ordained priest on 13th January, 1695, and was shortly afterwards presented to the living of Kilroot, near Belfast. Life at Kilroot, however, proved hopelessly dull; and in 1696 Swift returned to Moor Park. His position there was now very different. He had his own living and house to retire to in case of need, and was thus independent of his patron. He lived on the footing of friend and intimate, and remained at Moor Park on these terms till Temple's death in January, 1699.

With the death of Sir William Temple ended the first period of Swift's life. He lost a good friend, and gained little beyond the irksome privilege of editing his late patron's posthumous works. He returned to Ireland, and shortly afterwards received the living of Laracor in

Meath and two other livings, worth in all about £200 a year. For some years he spent his time partly at Laracor and partly in London. In 1704 he published in London his *Tale of a Tub*, a satire on religious controversies, which was destined to cost him dear. In 1713 he was made Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin by the influence of his political friends. This was by no means the bound of his ambition, for his heart was set on a bishopric; but some passages in the *Tale of a Tub* had so offended Queen Anne that she could never be induced to consent to his further advancement. Queen Anne died in 1714; and with her died all Swift's hopes of preferment. The Tory party, to whose fortunes he had attached himself, fell into long disfavour.

From this time Swift's life passed with little incident. He retired to his deanery, and with the exception of two visits to England passed the rest of his life in Ireland. Indeed, there was now little in London to attract one who had for long played a really great part in the counsels of a predominant party, and who now found his party without power and his friends scattered. He devoted himself strenuously to the interests of the Irish people, and became the idol of the Dublin populace. His mental powers, however, gradually gave way; and he died at the deanery on 19th October, 1745, in helpless idiocy. He was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral. By his will he bequeathed his fortune in trust for the foundation of an asylum for imbeciles, on the lines of a scheme which he drew up himself.

Besides the *Tale of a Tub* already mentioned, and a large number of telling political pamphlets, Swift's principal works are the *Battle of the Books* (1704), which sets forth a controversy between the claims of ancient and modern learning; the *Journal to Stella*, a diary, in the form of letters to his friend Esther Johnson, of his life

in London during a visit made in the years 1710-13; the *Drapier's Letters* (1724), denouncing successfully a patent granted to William Wood, a London ironmonger, for the coinage of halfpence for Ireland; and *Gulliver's Travels* (1726).

On the face of it *Gulliver's Travels* is a book of strange adventures, with a wealth of detail such as that which Defoe had put into *Robinson Crusoe*, and written in the clear strong style of which Swift was an unsurpassed master. The book, however, is really an elaborate satire. In the *Voyage to Lilliput* the satire is political, and the lash is laid on many of Swift's foes. The principal instances are pointed out in the notes. The *Voyage to Brobdingnag* contains less satire, and seems to have been written as an inevitable complement to the *Lilliput* part. Having written of the pygmies Swift could not but write also of the giants. In the *Voyage to Laputa* the satire is directed against mathematicians and pretenders in other branches of learning. In the *Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms* the satire goes deeper, and is directed against the human race itself. Swift was capable of deep and strong friendship for individuals; but his nature, soured by disappointment, cherished a bitter contempt of mankind in general. Although, however, the book is thus pervaded by satire it is quite possible to read it merely for the fascination of the story; and indeed it may well be maintained that for us this is the better way. Human nature, and the views of it which Swift so bitterly satirized, no doubt remain much as they were; but the political strife of two centuries ago can interest us but slightly; and to us the persons of importance of that day are little more than abstractions.

Kumudhath Datta 1926.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT

I. HOW GULLIVER WAS MADE PRISONER

My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire. I was the third of five sons. At the age of fourteen I went to Cambridge University, where I remained for three years, and applied myself close to my studies. As my father could not keep me longer there, I went to London and became a surgeon.

As success did not attend me, I engaged myself as a surgeon on a ship, and after making a voyage or two I returned to London and settled there for some time. I had a good practice at first, but this dwindled till I was forced to give it up. I again made up my mind to go to sea. I was surgeon in two ships, and made several voyages, for six years, to the East and West Indies, by which I got some addition to my fortune.

The last of these voyages not proving very fortunate, I grew weary of the sea, and intended to stay at home with my wife and family. But after three years I engaged myself as surgeon on the good ship *Antelope*, which was making a voyage to the South Sea. We set sail from Bristol, May 4, 1699, and our voyage at first was very prosperous.

It would not be proper, for some reasons, to trouble

the reader with the whole story of our adventures in these seas. Let it be enough to inform him that in our passage from the South Sea to the East Indies we were driven by a violent storm to the north-west of Van Diemen's Land. Twelve of our crew died through hard work and the want of food. The rest were in a very weak condition.

On the 5th of November, which was the beginning of



summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship. But the wind was so strong that we were driven upon the rock, and the vessel split in two.

Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down a boat into the sea, tried hard to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, for we were already much spent with the hard work we had had on board the ship.

We therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, but in about half an hour the boat was overturned by a sudden squall of wind. I cannot tell what became of my companions in the boat, or of those who escaped

on to the rock or were left in the vessel. But I think they were all lost.

For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was driven along by the wind and the tide. I often let my legs drop, but could not feel the bottom. When I was almost gone, and not able to struggle any longer, I found myself within my depth. By this time the storm had nearly passed.

The slope was so gradual that I walked nearly a mile before I got to the shore. It was about eight o'clock in the evening when I reached dry land. I was very tired, and, the weather being very warm, I felt myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very short and soft. There I slept sounder than I ever remember to have done in my life. I must have slept nine hours, for, when I awoke, it was just daylight.

I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir. For, as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the ground. My hair, which was long and thick, was tied down in the same way. I likewise felt several slender threads across my body. As I could only look upwards, and the sun began to grow hot, the light hurt my eyes. I heard a confused noise about me, but, in the position in which I lay, I could see nothing except the sky.

In a little while I felt something alive moving on my left leg. It advanced gently forward over my breast, and came almost up to my chin. When I cast my eyes downward as far as I could, I saw it to be a human creature scarcely six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver on his back.

In the meantime I felt at least forty more of the same kind following the first. I was greatly astonished, and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright. Some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt by the falls

they got in leaping from my sides to the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them ventured so far as to get a full view of my face. When he saw it, he lifted up his hand and eyes, and cried out in a strange language, of which I knew not a word.

I lay all this time in great distress. At length, struggling to get free, I had the good fortune to break the strings, and pull out the pegs, which fastened my left arm to the ground. By lifting my arm to my face I found out the methods they had taken to bind me. With a violent pull, which gave me great pain, I loosened a little the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches.

Before I could seize the creatures, they ran off a second time. Then there was a great shout, and after it ceased I heard one of them cry out aloud in the same language as before. In an instant I felt above a hundred arrows discharged on my left hand. They pricked me like so many needles. Besides, the creatures shot a number into the air, many of which fell on my body, and some on my face.

When this shower of arrows was over, I groaned with pain and grief. On my again striving to get free, they discharged another volley more numerous than the first, and some of them tried to stick me with spears in the side. By good luck I had on a buff jerkin, which they could not pierce.

I thought it best to lie still. My plan was to continue so till night, when, my left hand being already loose, I could easily free myself. I had reason to believe that I might be a match for the greatest army they could bring against me, if they were all of the same size as the one I saw.

But fortune disposed of me otherwise. When the

People observed I was quiet, they discharged no more arrows. By the noise I heard, I knew that their numbers had increased. About four yards from me I heard a knocking for more than an hour, as if some people were at work. When I turned my head in the direction of the noise, as well as the strings and pegs would permit me, I saw a wooden stage erected about a foot and a half high, capable of holding four of the inhabitants. From this stage one of them made me a long speech, of which I knew not a word.

Before he began to speak, however, I should have said that he gave orders to cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head. This enabled me to turn it to the right and to see the person who was speaking. He appeared to be of middle age, and taller than any of the other three who attended him, one of whom was a page that held up his train, and seemed a little longer than my middle finger. The other two stood one on each side to support him.

With some difficulty I made him understand that I knew nothing of what he and the others said, but that I wished them no harm. Being almost starved with hunger, for I had not eaten a morsel for some hours before I left the ship, I showed them by putting a finger of my left hand often into my mouth that I wanted food. The great lord on the stage understood me very well.

He at once came down and commanded that several ladders should be set up against my sides. On these more than a hundred of the inhabitants mounted. They walked towards my mouth, laden with baskets full of meat, which had been provided and sent thither by the King's orders, upon the first news he received of me.

I observed there was the flesh of several animals, but I could not make them out by the taste. There were shoulders, legs, and loins, shaped like those of mutton,

and very well dressed, but smaller than the wings of a lark. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful, and took three loaves at a time, about the size of musket bullets. They supplied me as fast as they could, and showed a thousand marks of wonder and surprise at my bulk and at the amount I ate.

I then made another sign, that I wanted drink. They found by my eating that a small quantity would not satisfy me. So, being a very clever people, they slung up, with great skill, one of their largest hogsheads. They rolled it towards my hand, and beat out the top of it. I drank it off at a draught, which I might well do, for it did not hold half a pint, and tasted like wine, but was much more delicious.

They brought me a second hogshead, which I drank in the same way, and then made signs for more. But they had none to give me. When I had performed these wonders, they shouted for joy, and danced upon my breast. They made me a sign that I should throw down the two hogsheads, but they first warned the people below to stand out of the way. When they saw the vessels in the air, there was a great shout.

I confess I was often tempted, while they were passing backwards and forwards on my body, to seize forty or fifty of the first that came within my reach, and dash them to the ground. But the remembrance of what I had felt, which perhaps might not be the worst they could do, and the promise of honour I had made them, soon drove out these thoughts. I could not but wonder at the courage of these very little mortals, who dared to mount and walk on my body, while one of my hands was free, without trembling at the sight of so large a creature as I must appear to them.

After some time, when they observed that I made no more demands for food, there appeared before me

a person of high rank, from the Emperor. Having mounted on the small of my right leg, he advanced forwards up to my face, with about a dozen of his followers. For about ten minutes he spoke to me without any signs of anger, but with a firm look on his face. He often pointed forwards, which, as I afterwards found, was towards the capital city, about half a mile distant. It had been agreed by the Emperor that I was to be taken there.

I answered in a few words, but to no purpose. I



made a sign with the hand that was loose, putting it to the other, and then to my head and body, to show that I wished to be freed from my bonds. It appeared that he understood me well enough, for he shook his head by way of refusal, and held his hand in such a way as to show that I must be carried as a prisoner. However, he made other signs to let me know that I should have meat and drink, and should be very well treated.

Upon this I once more thought of attempting to break my bonds. But when I felt the smart of their arrows upon my face and hands, which were all in blisters, and in which many of the darts were still

sticking, I gave tokens to let them know that they might do with me what they pleased. Soon after I heard a general shout, and I felt great numbers of people on my left side freeing the cords to such a degree that I was able to turn upon my right side, and to ease myself.

But before this they had daubed my face and both my hands with a sort of ointment, which was very pleasant to the smell, and in a few minutes removed all the smarts of their arrows. This, added to the refreshment I had received by their food and drink, which were very, very nourishing, caused me to fall asleep. I slept about eight hours, as I was afterwards told. And it was no wonder, for in the wine that had been given me to drink there was mixed a draught of something which always caused deep sleep.

It seems that upon the first moment I was discovered sleeping on the ground, after my landing, the Emperor had received early notice of it. He determined, in council, that I should be tied in the manner in which I have related (which was done in the night while I slept). Plenty of food and drink was to be sent me, and a machine prepared to carry me to the capital city.

This plan, perhaps, may appear very bold and dangerous, and I feel sure would not be imitated by any prince in Europe on a like occasion. However, in my opinion it was very prudent, as well as generous. If these people had tried to kill me with their spears and arrows while I was asleep, I should certainly have been awakened with the first feeling of smart. This might so far have roused my rage and strength as to have enabled me to break the strings with which I was tied. And as they would not have been able to resist me, so they could not have expected mercy.

These people are very clever, and are encouraged by

the Emperor, who is a renowned patron of learning, and they have become very skilful in their work. This prince has several machines fixed on wheels, for the carrying of trees and other great weights. He often builds his largest men-of-war, of which some are nine feet in length, in the woods, where the timber grows, and has them carried on these engines three or four hundred yards to the sea.

But none of his carriages were large or strong enough to carry me; so five hundred carpenters and engineers were set to work to prepare the greatest engine they could. It was a frame of wood, raised three inches from the ground, about seven feet long, and four wide, moving on twenty-two wheels. The shout I heard was upon the arrival of this engine, which it seems set out four hours after my landing.

This huge carriage was brought alongside of me as I lay. But the great difficulty was to raise and place me in the carriage. Eighty poles, each of which was one foot high, were erected for this purpose, and very strong cords, of the thickness of pack-thread, were fastened by hooks to many bandages, which the workmen had tied round my neck, my hands, my body, and my legs. Nine hundred of the strongest men then drew up these cords by means of many pulleys fastened on the poles. In this way, in less than three hours, I was raised and placed in the engine, and there tied fast.

All this I was told. For, while the work was being done, I lay in a deep sleep, by the force of that sleepy potion put into the wine I had drunk. Fifteen hundred of the Emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and a half high, were employed to draw me to the city, which, as I said, was half a mile distant.

About four hours after we began our journey, I was awakened by a very strange accident. The carriage

stopped for a few minutes to repair something that was out of order, and two or three of the young natives were very curious to see how I looked when I was asleep. They climbed up into the engine, and advanced very softly to my face. One of them, an officer of the guards, put the sharp end of his half-pike a good way up into my left nostril, and this tickled my nose like a straw, and made me sneeze violently. Upon this they stole off without being seen, and it was three weeks before I knew the cause of my waking so suddenly.

We made a long march the remaining part of the day, and rested at night with five hundred guards on each side of me, half of them with torches, and the other half with bows and arrows, ready to shoot me if I should offer to stir. The next morning, at sunrise, we continued our march, and arrived about noon within two hundred yards of the city gates. The Emperor and all his Court came out to meet us, but his great officers would not allow His Majesty to put his person in danger by mounting on my body. At the place where the carriage stopped there stood an ancient temple, esteemed to be the largest in the whole kingdom. This temple had not been used for some years, as a murder had taken place in it. In this building it was decided that I should lodge. The great gate fronting to the north was about four feet high, and almost two feet wide, and I could easily creep through it. On each side of the gate was a small window, not above six inches from the ground.

Into the window on the left side the Emperor's smiths carried fourscore and eleven chains, like those that hang to a lady's watch in Europe, and almost as large. They locked these to my left leg with six and thirty padlocks.

Over against this temple, on the other side of the great highway, at a distance of twenty feet, there was



GULLIVER CARRIED TO THE CITY BY THE LITTLE PEOPLE

a turret at least five feet high. Here the Emperor ascended, with many of the chief lords of his Court, to have a view of me, as I was told, for I could not see them. About a hundred thousand people came out of the town for the same purpose. In spite of my guards, I believe there could not be fewer than ten thousand, who at several times mounted my body by the help of ladders. But after a while this was forbidden on pain of death.

When the workmen found it was impossible for me to break loose, they cut all the strings that bound me. Upon this I rose up as sad as ever I was in my life. But the noise and surprise of the people at seeing me rise and walk cannot be described. The chain that held my left leg, which was about two yards long, gave me the liberty of walking backwards and forwards in a half-circle. As it was fixed within four inches from the gate, it allowed me to creep in and lie at full length in the temple.

II. HOW GULLIVER MADE FRIENDS

When I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must confess I never beheld a more beautiful sight. The country round about appeared like one large garden, and the enclosed fields, which were generally forty feet square, seemed to be so many beds of flowers. In these fields were woods, the tallest trees of which, as far as I could judge, appeared to be seven feet high. I had a view of the town on my left hand, which looked like the painted scenes of a city in a theatre.

The Emperor then descended from the tower, and advanced on horseback towards me. This very nearly cost him dear. For his horse, though very well trained, was so unused to such a sight, which appeared as if a

mountain moved before him, that he reared up on his hind feet. But the Emperor, who is an excellent horseman, kept his seat till his servants ran in and held the bridle, while His Majesty had time to dismount.

When he got off his horse, he looked me all round with great admiration, but he kept beyond the length of my chain. He ordered his cooks to give me food and drink. They pushed these forward in a sort of machine upon wheels, till I could reach them. I took these machines and soon emptied them all. Twenty of them were filled with food and ten with drink. Each of the former gave me two or three good mouthfuls. I emptied the drink of ten earthen vessels into one large one and drank it off at a draught.

The Empress, and the young Princes and Princesses, attended by many ladies, sat in their chairs at some distance. But upon the accident to the Emperor's horse they got down, and came near the Emperor, whom I am now going to describe.

He was taller, by almost the breadth of my nail, than any of his Court. This alone was enough to strike an awe into the beholders. His features were strong and masculine, with an Austrian lip and arched nose, his body and limbs were well proportioned and all his movements graceful. He was then a little past his prime, being twenty-eight and three-quarter years old. He had reigned in great happiness for about seven years and had been generally victorious.

That I might the better see him, I lay on my side, so that my face was alongside of his. He stood only three yards off. However, I have had him many times in my hand since, and therefore my description of him is correct.

His dress was very plain and simple. He had on his head a light helmet of gold, adorned with jewels, and a

plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself, if I should happen to break loose. This sword was about three inches long. The hilt and the sheath were of gold enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill, but very clear, and I could distinctly hear it when I stood up.

The ladies and courtiers were all most beautifully dressed, so that the spot upon which they stood looked as if it were a cloth spread on the ground and embroidered with figures of gold and silver.

The Emperor spoke often to me and I returned answers, but neither of us could understand a single word. In attendance upon the Emperor were several priests and lawyers, at least they appeared to be so by their dress. The Emperor commanded them to address themselves to me. I spoke to them in all the languages of which I had the least smattering, some of which were English, Dutch, Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian, but it was all to no purpose.

After about two hours the Count retired, and I was left with a strong guard to prevent the rabble coming too close to me. Some of the crowd, however, shot their arrows at me, as I sat on the ground by the door of my house. One of the arrows very narrowly missed my left eye. The colonel ordered six of the ringleaders to be seized; and thinking they would be properly punished if they were handed over to me, he commanded the soldiers to push them forward with the butt-ends of their pikes, until they were within reach of me. I then took them all up in my right hand.

Five of them I put into my coat pocket, and the sixth I raised up to my mouth, as if I would eat him alive. The poor man screamed out loudly. The colonel and his officers became much alarmed, especially when they saw me take out my penknife. But I at once put them out

of fear by looking mildly at them, and, cutting the strings with which the prisoner was bound, I set him gently on the ground, and away he ran.

I treated the rest of them in the same way, taking them one by one out of my pocket. I observed that both the soldiers and the people were highly delighted at this mark of my mercy, and I found that my conduct in this matter was highly spoken of at the Court.

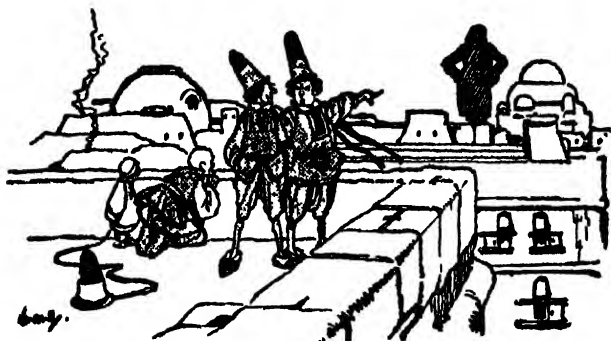
Towards night I got with some difficulty into my house, where I lay on the ground, and continued to do so for about a fortnight. During this time the Emperor gave orders to have a bed prepared for me. Six hundred beds of the ordinary size were brought in carriages, and worked up in my house. The workmen laid them upon the floor in four layers, a hundred and fifty of their beds being sewn together to make the breadth and the length. Even then they were hardly thick enough to keep me from the hardness of the floor, which was of smooth stone. In the same way they provided me with sheets, blankets, and coverlets, which were good enough for one who had been so long used to hardships.

As the news of my arrival spread through the kingdom, it brought great numbers of rich, idle, and curious people to see me. If the Emperor had not issued orders against it, the tilling of the land and all household work would have been everywhere neglected, and the villages would almost have been emptied. Therefore he directed that those who had already seen me should go home, and not presume to come within fifty yards of my house, without leave from the Court.

In the meantime the Emperor held frequent meetings to discuss what should be done with me. I was afterwards assured by a particular friend, a person of great quality, who was as much in the secret as any, that the Court had great difficulties in the matter. They were

afraid that I would break loose, or that the amount of food I required would cause a famine. Sometimes they determined to starve me, or at least to shoot me in the face with poisonous arrows and thus kill me.

In the midst of these discussions, several officers of the army went to the door of the great meeting-place, and, two of them being admitted, gave an account of how I had behaved to the six prisoners mentioned above. This made so favourable an impression on the Emperor that orders were given to all the inhabitants of the



villages, nine hundred yards round the city, to deliver every morning six oxen, forty sheep, and other food for my support, together with a large quantity of bread and wine.

The Emperor paid for all this out of his own purse, for he lives chiefly upon his own income. Seldom, except upon great occasions, does he raise any money from his own subjects, who are bound to attend him in his wars at their own expense. Six hundred servants were also given me, who had board wages allowed them, and tents built for them on each side of my door.

It was likewise ordered that three hundred tailors should make me a suit of clothes, after the fashion of the

country. The Emperor also commanded that six of his greatest scholars should be engaged to teach me the language of the country. He ordered that the royal horses should be frequently exercised in front of me, so that they might become accustomed to me.

All these orders were duly carried out. In three weeks I had made great progress in learning their language. During that time the Emperor frequently honoured me with his visits, and was pleased to assist my masters in teaching me. We began to converse together in some sort of way. The first words I learnt were used to express my desire that he would be pleased to give me my liberty. This I repeated every day on my knees. His answer, as far as I could make it out, was, that this must be a work of time, and not to be thought of without the advice of his council, and that first I must enter into a treaty of peace with him and his kingdom. However, he promised that I should be used with all kindness.

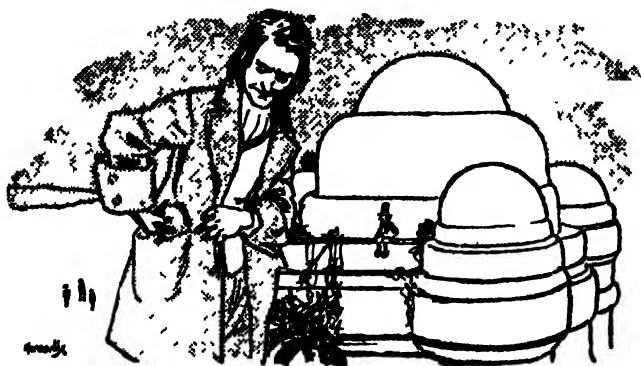
He advised me, too, to gain by my patience and discreet conduct the good opinion of himself and his subjects. He desired that I would not take it ill if he gave orders to certain officers to search me. For perhaps I carried about on me weapons, which might be dangerous things if they corresponded to the size of so large a person.

I answered that His Majesty should be satisfied, as I was ready to strip myself and turn out my pockets before him. This answer I gave partly in words and partly by signs. He replied that by the laws of the kingdom I must be searched by two of his officers. He knew, he said, that this could not be done without my consent and help. He had so good an opinion of my kindness and justice that he would trust their persons in my hands. Whatever they took, he said, should be

returned when I left the country, or paid for at the rate at which I valued it.

I took up the two officers in my hands, and put them first into my coat pockets and then into every other pocket I had, except my two fobs. Another secret pocket I had I did not let them search, since it had needful things that were of no consequence to anyone but myself. In one of my fobs there was a silver watch, and in the other a small quantity of gold in a purse.

These gentlemen, having pens, ink, and paper about



them, made an exact list for the Emperor of everything they saw. When they had done this, they desired that I would set them down that they might deliver the list to the Emperor. This list I afterwards translated into English, and it is as follows:—

“In the right coat pocket of the great Man-Mountain, after the strictest search, we found only one great piece of coarse cloth, large enough to cover the floor of Your Majesty’s chief Room of State. In the left pocket we saw a huge silver chest, with a cover of the same metal, which we, the searchers, were not able to lift. We desired that it should be opened, and one of us, stepping

into it, found himself in a sort of dust. Some of this dust flew up into our faces and set us both a-sneezing for several times together.

"In his right waistcoat pocket we found a very large bundle of a thin, white substance, folded one over another, about the size of three men. These are tied with a strong cable, and marked with black figures, which we humbly conceive to be writings, every letter almost half as large as the palm of our hands.

"In the left pocket there was a sort of engine, from the back of which were extended twenty long poles, like the palings before Your Majesty's Court. With this we think the Man-Mountain combs his hair, for we did not always trouble him with questions, because we found it very difficult to make him understand us.

"In the large pocket on the right side of his breeches we saw a hollow pillar of iron, about the length of a man, fastened to a strong piece of timber larger than the pillar. Upon one side of the pillar were huge pieces of iron sticking out, cut into strange figures, which we know not what to make of.

"In the left pocket was another engine of the same kind. In the smaller pocket on the right side were several round flat pieces of white and red metal, of different sizes. Some of the white pieces, which seemed to be of silver, were so large that my comrade and I could hardly lift them.

"In the left pocket were two black pillars irregularly



shaped. We could not without great difficulty reach the top of these, as we stood at the bottom of his pocket. One of them was covered, and seemed as if it were one piece, but at the upper end of the other there appeared a white round substance about twice the size of our heads. Within each of these was a huge plate of steel. We ordered him to show us them, for we feared that they were dangerous weapons. He took them out of their cases, and told us that, in his own country, his practice was to shave his beard with one of these, and cut his food with the other.



"There were two pockets which we could not enter. These he called his fobs. They were two large slits cut into the top of his breeches and pressed close together. Out of the right fob hung a great silver chain, with a wonderful kind of engine at the bottom.

"We directed him to draw out whatever was at the end of that chain. It appeared to be a globe, half of silver and half of some metal through which you can see. On the transparent side we saw strange figures drawn in a circle. We thought we could touch them, till we found our fingers stopped by this strange metal.

"He put this engine to our ears, and we found that it makes a terrible noise, like that of a water mill, and this is unceasing. We think it is either some unknown animal, or the god that he worships. We are more inclined to believe it is his god, for he assured us (if we understand him right, for he expressed himself imperfectly) that he seldom did anything without consulting it.

He called it his oracle, and said it pointed out the time of every action of his life.

“From the left fob he took out a net, almost large enough for a fisherman, which opened and shut like a purse, and served him for the same use. In it we found several large pieces of yellow metal, which, if they be real gold, must be of immense value.

“Having thus, in obedience to Your Majesty’s commands, diligently searched all his pockets, we observed a girdle about his waist made of the hide of some huge animal. From it, on the left side, hung a sword of the length of five men. On the right of it hung a bag or pouch divided into two cells, each cell capable of holding three of Your Majesty’s subjects.

“In one of these cells were several globes or balls of a very heavy metal, about the size of our heads, and which required a strong hand to lift them. The other cell contained a heap of certain black grains, but of no great size or weight, for we could hold above fifty of them in the palms of our hands.

“This is an exact list of what we found about the body of the Man-Mountain, who used us very kindly and paid great respect to the orders of Your Majesty. Signed and sealed on the fourth day of the eighty-ninth month of Your Majesty’s happy reign:—

“CLEFRIN FRELOCK.

“MARS FRELOCK.”

When this list was read over to the Emperor, he directed me, although in very gentle terms, to deliver up all the articles named in it. He first called for my sword, which I took out, sheath and all. In the meantime, he ordered three thousand of the choicest troops (who then attended him) to surround me at a distance with their bows and arrows just ready to

shoot. But I did not observe them, for my eyes were fixed upon His Majesty.

He then desired me to draw my sword, which, although it had got some rust by the sea water, was in most parts very bright. I did so, and immediately all the troops gave a shout between terror and surprise. For the sun shone clear, and the reflection dazzled their eyes, as I waved the sword to and fro in my hand. His Majesty, who is a most generous prince, was far braver than I could expect. He ordered me to put the sword back into the scabbard, and to throw it on the ground, as gently as I could, about six feet from the end of my chain.

The next thing he demanded was one of the hollow iron pillars, by which he meant my pocket pistols. I drew it out, and at his desire, as well as I could, told him the use of it. I filled it only with powder, which, by the closeness of my pouch, happened to escape being wet in the sea, and first telling the prince not to be afraid, I let it off in the air. The surprise in this case was much greater than at the sight of the sword, for hundreds of people fell down as if they had been struck dead. Even the Emperor, although he stood his ground, could not recover himself for some time.

I delivered up both my pistols in the same way as I had done my sword, and then my pouch of powder and bullets. I begged him to keep the powder from the fire, for it would kindle with the smallest spark and would blow up the royal palace into the air. I also gave up my watch, which the Emperor was very curious to see. He commanded two of his tallest yeomen of the guard to bear it on a pole upon their shoulders. He was amazed at the constant noise it made and at the movement of the minute hand, which, since his sight is much keener than ours, he could easily see.

He then asked the opinions of his learned men about it. These opinions were very different and far from right, as the reader may well imagine without my telling them. I could not very well understand, however, all they said.

I then gave up my silver and copper money, and my purse with the nine large pieces of gold and some smaller ones. My knife and razor, my comb and silver snuff-box, my handkerchief and journal book were also all delivered up. My sword, pistols, and pouch were conveyed in carriages to His Majesty's stores. But the rest of my goods were given back to me.

I had, as I before observed, one private pocket, which escaped their search. In it there was a pair of glasses (which I sometimes use because of the weakness of my eyes), a pocket glass, and some other little objects. As these were of no consequence to the Emperor, I did not think myself bound in honour to show them, and I feared lest they might be lost or spoiled, if I let them out of my hands.

III. THE COURT AT LILLIPUT

My gentleness and good conduct had gained so far on the Emperor and his Court, and indeed upon the army and people in general, that I began to have hopes of getting my liberty in a short time. I took all possible means of increasing this favourable opinion. The natives became, by degrees, less frightened of receiving any harm from me. Sometimes I would lie down and let five or six of them dance on my head. In the end the boys and girls would venture to come and play at hide-and-seek in my hair.

I had now made good progress in understanding and speaking their language. The Emperor had a mind one

day to entertain me with several of the country shows in which this people excelled all nations I have known, both for skill and splendour. I was diverted with none so much as that of the rope dancers. They performed upon a slender white thread stretched out for about two feet, and twelve inches from the ground. This rope dancing I desire permission, with the reader's patience, to describe at greater length.

This art is only practised by those persons, who wish for high offices and great favour at Court. They are trained in this art from their youth, and are not always of noble birth or a good education. When a great office is vacant, either by death or disgrace (which often happens), five or six of those who desire the office ask the Emperor to allow them to entertain His Majesty and the Court with a dance on the rope. Whoever jumps the highest, without falling, succeeds in getting the office. Very often the chief ministers are commanded to perform, and to let the Emperor see that they have not lost their skill.

The treasurer of the kingdom is allowed to cut a caper on the straight rope, at least an inch higher than any other lord in the whole empire. I have seen the officers turn a somersault several times together upon a plate fixed on a rope, which is no thicker than a common pack-thread in England. The chief secretary for private affairs is in my opinion a good second to the treasurer. The rest of the great officers are all nearly equal.

These games are often attended by fatal accidents, of which there are a great number on record. I myself have seen two or three of the performers break their limbs. But the danger is much greater when the ministers themselves are commanded to show their skill. For, by striving to excel themselves and their fellows, they strain so far that there is hardly one of them who

has not received a fall, and some of them two or three. I was told that, a year or two before my arrival, the treasurer would certainly have broken his neck if one of the Emperor's cushions, that by chance lay on the ground, had not weakened the force of his fall.

There is likewise another sport, which is only shown before the Emperor and the Empress, and the first minister, upon special occasions. The Emperor lays on the ground three fine silken threads six inches long, of which one is blue, the second red, and the third green. These threads are to be given as prizes to those persons whom the Emperor desires to distinguish by a special mark of his favour.

This sport is performed in His Majesty's great chamber of state, where the performers have to undergo a trial of skill very different from that of dancing on a rope. The like of it I have not seen in any other country of the new or old world. The Emperor holds a stick in his hands, while the performers, advancing one by one, sometimes leap over the stick, sometimes creep under it, backward and forward, several times, according as the stick is raised or lowered.

Sometimes the Emperor holds one end of the stick and his first minister the other; sometimes the minister has it entirely to himself. Whoever performs his part with the greatest skill is rewarded with the blue-coloured silk. The red is given to the next, and the green to the third, which they all wear girt twice round the waist. You see few persons about this Court who are not adorned with one of these girdles.

The horses of the army and those of the royal stables, having been daily led before me, were no longer shy, but would come to my very feet without starting. The riders would make them leap over my hand as I held it on the ground. One day one of the Emperor's hunts-

men, upon a courser, made a great leap over my foot-shoe and all.

I had the good fortune to amuse the Emperor one day in a strange way. I wished him to order several sticks, two feet high, and as thick as an ordinary cane, to be brought to me. His Majesty at once gave commands to the master of his woods to get them, and the next morning six woodmen arrived with six carriages, each drawn by eight horses. I took nine of these sticks and fixed them firmly in the ground in a four-sided figure, two feet and a half square. I took four other sticks, and tied them parallel at each corner, about two feet from the ground.

Then I fastened my handkerchief to the nine sticks that stood erect, and extended it on all sides till it was tight as the top of a drum. The four parallel sticks, rising about five inches higher than the handkerchief, served as ledges on each side. When I had finished, I requested the Emperor to let a troop of his horses, twenty-four in number, come and exercise upon this plain.

His Majesty approved of the proposal, and I took them up, one by one, in my hands, ready mounted and armed, with the proper officers to exercise them. As soon as they got into order, they divided into parties and performed sham skirmishes. They discharged blunt arrows, drew their swords, fled and pursued, attacked and retired, and in short showed the best military order I had ever seen.

The parallel sticks secured them and their horses from falling over the stage. The Emperor was so much delighted that he ordered this entertainment to be repeated several days, and once was pleased to be lifted up himself, and give the word of command. With great difficulty he persuaded even the Empress herself to let

she hold her in her chair within two yards of the stage, when she was able to get a fine view of the whole performance.

It was my good fortune that no accident happened at these entertainments. Only once, a fiery horse that belonged to one of the captains, pawing with his hoof, struck a hole in my handkerchief, and, his foot slipping, he overthrew himself and his rider. But I immediately freed them both, and covering the hole with one hand I set down the troop with the other, in the same way as I took them up. The horse that fell was strained in the left shoulder, but the rider got no hurt. I repaired my handkerchief as well as I could, but I would not trust the strength of it any more in such dangerous performances.

About two or three days before I was set at liberty, as I was entertaining the Court with feats of this kind, there arrived a messenger to inform His Majesty, that some of his subjects, while riding near the place where I was first taken, had seen a great black substance lying on the ground. This substance was very oddly shaped, with its edges extending round, as wide as His Majesty's bedroom, and rising up in the middle as high as a man.

They said that it was not a living creature, as they at first feared, for it lay on the grass without moving, and some of them had walked round it several times. They pointed out that, by mounting upon each other's shoulders, they had got to the top, which was flat and even, and that they had stamped upon it and found that it was hollow within. They thought that it might be something belonging to the Man-Mountain. If it pleased His Majesty, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses.

I soon knew what they meant, and was very glad to receive the news. It seems, upon my reaching the

shore after our shipwreck, I was in such confusion that, before I came to the place where I went to sleep, my hat fell off after I came to land. I had fastened it on with a string to my head, while I was rowing, and it had stuck on all the time I was swimming. The string had been broken by some accident, though I thought I had lost it in the sea, for I never saw it when I came ashore.

I entreated His Majesty to give orders that it might be brought to me as soon as possible, and described to him its use and nature. The next day the wagoners arrived with it, but not in a very good condition. They had bored two holes in the brim, within an inch and a half of the edge, and fastened two hooks in the holes. These hooks were tied by a long cord to the harness, and in this way my hat was dragged along for about a mile. But, the ground in that country being very smooth, it received less damage than I expected.

Two days after this adventure, the Emperor, having ordered that part of his army which quarters in and about his capital to be in readiness, took a fancy to amusing himself in a very strange way. He wished me to stand with my legs as far asunder as I could. He then commanded his general (who was an old, well-trained leader, and a great friend of mine) to draw up the troops in close order and march them under me, the foot soldiers twenty-four abreast, and the horse sixteen abreast, with drums beating, colours flying, and pikes advanced. This body consisted of three thousand foot soldiers and a thousand horsemen.

I had sent so many letters asking for my liberty that His Majesty at length mentioned the matter, first in the cabinet and then in the full council. It was opposed by the admiral of the kingdom, who was pleased to be my mortal enemy, for no reason that I knew of. But it was

carried against him by the whole council and confirmed by the Emperor. However, this minister was at length persuaded to agree, but did so on condition that he himself was allowed to draw up the conditions upon which I should be set free, and to which I must swear. These conditions were brought to me by the minister in person, attended by several persons of distinction.

After they were read I was demanded to swear that I would observe them, first in the manner of my own country, and afterwards in the method prescribed by their laws. This latter method was to hold my right foot in my left hand, and to place the middle finger of my right hand on the crown of my head, and my thumb on the tip of my right ear.

But because the reader may be curious to have some idea of the conditions on which I recovered my liberty, I give them here below:

"I. The Man-Mountain shall not depart from our dominions without our permission under our great seal.

"II. He shall not presume to come into our metropolis, without our express order; at which time, the inhabitants shall have two hours' warning to keep within doors.

"III. The said Man-Mountain shall confine his walks to our principal highroads, and not offer to walk, or lie down, in a meadow or field of corn.

"IV. As he walks the said roads he shall take the utmost care not to trample upon the bodies of any of our loving subjects, their horses or their carriages, or take any of our subjects into his hands without their own consent.

"V. If an express requires great haste, the Man-Mountain shall be obliged to carry, in his pocket, the messenger and horse a six days' journey, once in every month, and return the said messenger (if so required) safe to our imperial presence.

"VI. He shall be our ally against our enemies in the island of Blefuscu, and do his utmost to destroy their fleet, which is now preparing to invade us.

"VII. That the said Man-Mountain shall, at his time of leisure, aid and assist our workmen, in helping to raise certain great stones, towards covering the wall of the principal park, and of our other royal buildings.

"VIII. That the said Man-Mountain shall, in two months' time, deliver an exact survey of the circumference of our dominions, by counting the number of his own paces round the coast.

"Lastly. That, upon his solemn oath to observe all the above articles, the said Man-Mountain shall have a daily allowance of meat and drink, sufficient for the support of 1728 of our subjects, with free access to our royal person, and other marks of our favour. Given at our palace at Belfaborac, the twelfth day of the ninety-first month of our reign."

I agreed to these conditions with great cheerfulness and content, although some of them were not so honourable as I could have wished. This proceeded wholly from the malice of the high admiral. Upon this my chains were immediately unlocked, and I was at full liberty. The Emperor himself, in person, did me the honour to be present at the whole ceremony.

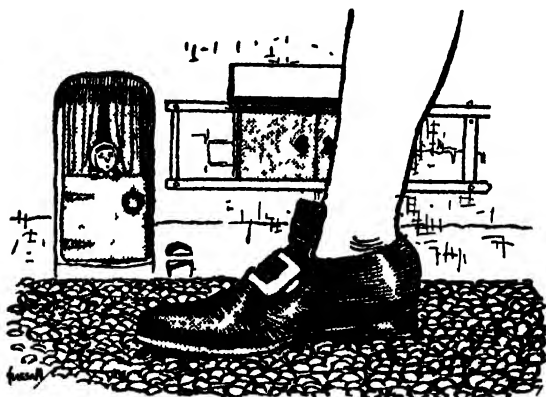
I made my acknowledgments by prostrating myself at His Majesty's feet. But he commanded me to rise. After many gracious expressions he added that he hoped I should prove a useful servant, and well deserve all the favours he had already given or might give me in the future.

IV. THE CHIEF CITY OF LILLIPUT

The first request I made, after I had obtained my liberty, was, that I might have permission to see Mil-

dendo, the metropolis. This the Emperor easily granted me, but with a special charge to do no hurt either to the inhabitants or their houses. The people had notice of my design to visit the town. The wall which runs round it is two feet and a half high, and at least eleven inches broad, so that a coach and horses may be driven safely round it. It is flanked with towers at ten feet distance.

I stepped over the great western gate, and passed



very gently and sideways through the two principal streets in my short waistcoat only, for fear of damaging the roofs and eaves of the houses with the skirts of my coat. I walked with the utmost care, to avoid treading on any stragglers who might remain in the streets, although the orders were very strict, that all people should keep in their houses, at their own peril. The garret windows and tops of houses were so crowded with spectators that I thought in all my travels I had not seen a more populous place.

The city is an exact square, each side of the wall being five hundred feet long. The two great streets,

which run across and divide it into four quarters, are five feet wide. The lanes and alleys, which I could not enter, but only view as I passed, are from twelve to eighteen inches wide. The town is capable of holding five hundred thousand souls. The houses are from three to five stories, and the shops and markets well provided.

The Emperor's palace is in the centre of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is enclosed by a wall two feet high, and twenty feet distant from the building. I had His Majesty's permission to step over this wall. The space being so wide between that and the palace, I could easily view it on every side. The outward court is a square of forty feet, and includes two other courts. In the inmost are the royal apartments, which I was very desirous of seeing, but found it very difficult, for the great gates, from one square into another, were but eighteen inches high, and seven inches wide.

Now the buildings of the outer court were at least five feet high, and it was impossible for me to stride over them without great damage to the pile, though the walls were strongly built of hewn stone, and four inches thick. At the same time, the Emperor had a great desire that I should see the splendours of his palace. But this I was not able to do till three days after. This time I spent in cutting down, with my knife, some of the largest trees in the royal park, about a hundred yards distant from the city.

Of these trees I made two stools, each about three feet high, and strong enough to bear my weight. The people having received notice a second time, I went again through the city to the palace, with my two stools in my hands. When I came to the side of the outer court, I stood upon one stool, and took the other in my hand. This I lifted over the roof, and gently set it

down on the space between the first and second court, which was eight feet wide. I then stepped over the building from one stool to the other, and drew up the first after me with a hooked stick.

By this means I got into the inner court. Lying down upon my side, I put my face to the windows of the middle stories, which were left open on purpose, and saw the most splendid apartments that could be imagined. There I saw the Empress and the young princes, in their several rooms, with their chief attendants about them. Her Majesty was pleased to smile very graciously upon me, and gave me out of the window her hand to kiss.

One morning, about a fortnight after I had obtained my liberty, the secretary for private affairs came to my house, attended only by one servant. He ordered his coach to wait at a distance, and desired I would give him an hour's audience. This I readily consented to, on account of his quality and personal merits, as well as of the many good offices he had done me at Court. I offered to lie down, that he might reach my ear. But he chose rather to let me hold him in my hand during our conversation.

He began with compliments on my liberty, and said he might pretend to some merit in it. But he added that if it had not been for the present situation of things at Court, perhaps I might not have obtained it so soon. "For," said he, "as flourishing a condition as we may appear to be in, to foreigners, we labour under two mighty evils; a violent faction at home, and the danger of an invasion by a most powerful enemy from abroad. As to the first, you are to understand that for about seventy months past there have been two struggling parties in this empire, under the name of 'High Heels' and 'Low Heels'.

"It is said, indeed, that the high heels are most agreeable to our ancient laws. But, however this may be, His Majesty has determined to make use only of low heels in the work of his government, and in all offices in the gift of the Crown, as you cannot but observe. His Majesty's heels are lower by at least a *drurr* than any of his Court (*drurr* is a measure about the fourteenth part of an inch). The hatred between these two parties runs so high that they will neither eat, nor drink, nor talk with each other. We reckon that High Heels exceed us in number, but the power is wholly on our side.

"We are afraid that His Highness, the heir to the crown, has some tendency towards the High Heels. At least we can plainly see that one of his heels is higher than the other, which gives him a hobble in his walk. Now, in the midst of these quarrels at home, we are threatened with an invasion from the island of Blefuscu, which is the other great empire of the world, almost as large and powerful as this of His Majesty.

"For as to what we have heard you affirm, that there are other kingdoms and states in the world inhabited by human creatures as large as yourself, our wise men are in much doubt, and would rather believe that you dropped from the moon or one of the stars. It is certain that a hundred mortals of your size would in a short time destroy all the fruits and cattle of His Majesty's dominions. And our histories of six thousand months make no mention of any other regions than those of the two great empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu.

"These two mighty powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most stubborn war for six-and-thirty months past. It began upon the following occasion. It is allowed on all hands that the first way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end. But His Majesty's grandfather, while he

was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers. On this the Emperor, his father, passed a law, commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the smaller ends of their eggs.

"The people so greatly objected to this law that, our histories tell us, there have been six rebellions raised on that account. In one of these one Emperor lost his life, and another his crown. These civil wars were constantly fanned by the monarchs of Blefuscu. When they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is reckoned that eleven thousand persons have suffered death rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller ends.

"Now, the Big-endian exiles have found so much credit in the Emperor of Blefuscu's Court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their private party here at home, that a bitter war has been carried on between the two empires for six-and-thirty months, with varied success. During this time we have lost forty large ships, and a much greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers. The damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours.

"However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet, and are just preparing to make a descent upon us. His Majesty, placing great confidence in your valour and strength, has commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you."

I desired the secretary to present my humble duty to the Emperor, and to let him know that I thought it would not become me, who was a foreigner, to interfere with parties. But I was ready, at the risk of my life, to defend his person and State against all invaders.

V. HOW GULLIVER CAPTURED A WHOLE FLEET

The empire of Blefuscu is an island situated to the north-east of Lilliput, from which it is parted only by a channel eight hundred yards wide. I had not yet seen it, and upon this notice of an intended invasion I avoided appearing on that side of the coast, for fear of being seen by some of the enemy's ships, who had received no news of me. All intercourse between the two empires having been strictly forbidden during the war, upon pain of death, none of the Emperor's vessels were allowed to go there.

I told His Majesty of a project I had formed, of seizing the enemy's whole fleet. The fleet, as our scouts assured us, lay at anchor in the harbour, ready to sail with the first fair wind. I consulted the most experienced seamen about the depth of the channel, which they had often sounded. They told me that in the middle, at high water, it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep, which is about six feet of European measure; and the rest of it fifty *glumgluffs* at most.

I walked towards the north-east coast, over against Blefuscu. There, lying down behind a hillock, I took out my small glass, and viewed the enemy's fleet at anchor, consisting of about fifty men-of-war, and a great number of transports. I then came back to my house, and gave orders for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was about as thick as pack-thread, and the bars of the length and size of a knitting-needle.

I trebled the cable to make it stronger, and for the same reason I twisted three of the iron bars together, bending the ends into a hook. Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the north-east

coast, and, putting off my coat, shoes, and stockings, walked into the sea in my leathern jerkin, about half an hour before high water. I waded with what haste I could, and swam in the middle about thirty yards, till I felt ground. I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour.

The enemy were so frightened when they saw me that they leaped out of their ships and swam to shore, where there could not be fewer than thirty thousand souls. I then took my tackling, and fastening a hook to the hole at the prow of each, I tied all the cords together at the end. While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face. Besides the great smart they caused, they gave me much disturbance in my work. My greatest fear was for my eyes, which I should have lost, if I had not suddenly thought of a plan for saving them.

I kept, among other little needful things, a pair of glasses, in a private pocket, which, as I observed before, had escaped the Emperor's searchers. These I took out, and fastened as firmly as I could upon my nose, and, thus armed, went on boldly with my work, in spite of the enemy's arrows. Many of them struck against the glasses of my spectacles, but without any other effect than to disarrange them a little.



I had now fastened all the hooks, and, taking the knot in my hand, I began to pull. But not a ship would stir, for they were all held too fast by their anchors. So that the boldest part of my plan remained. I therefore let go the cord, and, leaving the hooks fixed to the ships, I cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors. While doing so I received about two hundred shots in my face and hands. Then I took up the knotted end of the cables, to which my hooks were tied, and with the greatest ease drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.

The Blefuscudians, who had not the least thought of what I intended, were at first taken by surprise. They had seen me cut the cables, and thought my design was only to let the ships run adrift, or fall foul of each other. But when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, they set up such a scream of grief and despair as it is almost impossible to describe or think of.

When I had got out of danger, I stopped awhile to pick out the arrows that had stuck in my hands and face. I now rubbed on some of the same ointment that was given me on my first arrival, as I have formerly mentioned. I then took off my glasses, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little lower, I waded through the middle with my cargo, and arrived safe at the royal port of Lilliput.

The Emperor and his whole Court stood on the shore, awaiting the result of this great adventure. They saw the ships move forward in a large half-moon, but could not see me, who was up to my breast in water. When I advanced to the middle of the channel, they were yet in pain, because I was under water to my neck. The Emperor concluded that I was drowned, and that the enemy's fleet was approaching to fight. But he was

soon relieved of his fears, for, the channel growing shallower every step I made, I came in a short time within hearing, and holding up the end of the cable, by which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice: "Long live the powerful king of Lilliput!" This great prince received me at my landing with all possible joy, and created me a *nardac* upon the spot, which is the highest title of honour among them.

His Majesty desired I would take some other opportunity of bringing all the rest of his enemy's ships into his ports. And so great is the ambition of princes that he seemed to think of nothing less than reducing the whole empire of Blefuscu into a province, and governing it by a viceroy. He wished to destroy the Big-endian exiles, and compel that people to break the smaller ends of their eggs, by which he would remain the sole monarch of the world.

But I tried to divert him from this design, and I plainly protested that I would never be the agent to bring a free and brave people into slavery; and, when the matter was debated in council, the wisest part of the ministry were of my opinion.

This open, bold declaration of mine was so much against the schemes and politics of His Majesty that he could never forgive me. He mentioned it in a very artful manner at council, where I was told that some of the wisest appeared at least, by their silence, to be of my opinion. But others, who were my enemies, could not forbear some expressions which by a side wind reflected on me. From this time began a plotting between His Majesty and a number of ministers, bent against me, which broke out in less than two months, and appeared likely to end in my utter destruction. Of so little weight are the greatest services to princes, when put into the balance with a refusal to gratify their passions.

About three weeks after this adventure, there arrived a solemn embassy from Blefuscu, with humble offers of a peace. This was soon concluded upon conditions very advantageous to our Emperor, wherewith I shall not trouble the reader. There were six ambassadors, with a train of about five hundred persons. Their entry was very magnificent, suitable to the grandeur of their master and the importance of their business.

When their treaty was finished, in connection with which I did them several good offices by the credit I now had, or at least appeared to have, at Court, their excellencies, who were privately told how much I had been their friend, made me a visit in form. They began with many compliments upon my valour and kindness, invited me to that kingdom, in the Emperor their master's name, and desired me to show them some proofs of my huge strength, of which they had heard so many wonders. I readily obliged them in this, but shall not trouble the reader with the particulars.

When I had for some time entertained their excellencies, to their great satisfaction and surprise, I desired they would do me the honour to present my most humble respects to the Emperor their master, the renown of whose virtues had so justly filled the whole world with admiration, and whose royal person I resolved to visit, before I returned to my own country.

Accordingly, the next time I had the honour to see the Emperor, I desired his general permission to wait on the Blefusculian monarch, which he was pleased to grant me, as I could perceive, in a very cold manner. But I could not guess the reason, till I had a whisper from a certain person that the high treasurer and the high admiral had represented my intercourse with those ambassadors as a mark of disaffection. From this I am sure my heart was wholly free. And this was the first

time I began to conceive some imperfect idea of Courts and ministers.

It is to be observed that these ambassadors spoke to me by an interpreter, the languages of both empires differing as much from each other as any two in Europe, and each nation priding itself upon the age, beauty, and energy of its own tongue, with an avowed contempt of that of its neighbour. Yet our Emperor, standing upon the advantage he had got by the seizure of their fleet, obliged them to make their speech in the Lilliputian tongue.

And it must be confessed, that from the great intercourse of trade and commerce between both kingdoms, and from the custom, in each empire, to send its young nobles and richer gentry to the other, in order to polish themselves by seeing the world, and understanding men and manners, there are few persons of distinction, or merchants, or seamen, who dwell in the coast parts, but can hold conversation in both tongues. I found this out some weeks after, when I went to pay my respects to the Emperor of Blefuscu, which, in the midst of great misfortunes through the malice of my enemies, proved a very happy adventure to me, as I shall relate in its proper place.

VI. GULLIVER LEAVES LILLIPUT

Before I proceed to give an account of my leaving this kingdom, it may be proper to inform the reader of a private plot, which had been for two months forming against me.

I had been hitherto, all my life, a stranger to Courts, for which I was unqualified by the meanness of my condition. I had, indeed, heard and read enough of the natures of great princes and ministers, but I never expected to have found such terrible effects of them in so

remote a country, governed, as I thought, by very different rules from those in Europe.

While I was just preparing to visit the Emperor of Blefuscu, an important person at Court (to whom I had rendered great service at a time when he lay under the highest displeasure of His Majesty) came to my house very privately at night in a close chair, and, without sending in his name, desired admittance.

The chair-bearers were dismissed, and I put the chair, with his lordship in it, into my coat pocket. I then gave orders to a trusty servant to say I was ill and gone to sleep. I fastened the door of my house, placed the chair on the table, according to my usual custom, and sat down by it. His lordship's face was full of concern, and on my enquiring into the reason he informed me that His Majesty and council had condemned me to the loss of my eyes, as I had been found guilty of treason. In three days the secretary would be directed to come to my house, and would read the resolution come to with regard to me.

After thinking over the matter for some time, I fixed upon a plan, for which it is possible I may incur some blame, and not unjustly. I confess I owe the preserving of my eyes, and, as a result, of my liberty, to my own great rashness and want of experience. If I had then known the nature of princes and ministers, which I have since observed in many other Courts, and their methods of treating greater criminals than myself, I should have submitted with great readiness to so easy a punishment.

But hurried on by the rashness of youth, and having His Majesty's permission to visit the Emperor of Blefuscu, I took the chance, before the three days were passed, to send a letter to my friend the secretary, telling him that I had resolved to set out that morning for Blefuscu.

Without waiting for an answer I went to that side of the island where our fleet lay. I seized a large man-of-war, and tied the cable to the prow. Lifting up the anchors, I stripped myself, put my clothes (together with my coverlet, which I carried under my arm) into the vessel, and, drawing it after me, between wading and swimming I arrived at the royal port of Blefuscu, where the people had long expected me.

They lent me two guides to direct me to the capital city, which is of the same name. I held them in my hands till I came within two hundred yards of the gate, and desired them to tell of my arrival to one of the secretaries, and let him know I there waited His Majesty's commands. I had an answer in about an hour, that His Majesty, attended by the royal family and great officers of the Court, was coming out to receive me. I advanced a hundred yards.

The Emperor and his train alighted from their horses, the Empress and ladies from their coaches, and I did not perceive they were in any fright or concern. I lay on the ground to kiss His Majesty's and the Empress's hands. I told His Majesty that I was come according to my promise, and with the permission of the Emperor my master, to have the honour of seeing so mighty a monarch, and to offer him any service in my power, as far as my duty to my own prince would allow. I did not mention a word of my disgrace, because I had hitherto no regular information of it, and might suppose myself wholly ignorant of any such design. I could not reasonably conceive that the Emperor would find out the secret, while I was out of his power. In this, however, it soon appeared I was deceived.

I shall not trouble the reader with the account of my reception at this Court, which was suitable to the kindness of so great a prince. Nor shall I say anything of

the difficulties I was in for want of a house and bed, being forced to lie on the ground, wrapped up in my coverlet.

Three days after my arrival, walking, out of curiosity, to the north-east coast of the island, I observed, about half a league off in the sea, something that looked like a boat overturned. I pulled off my shoes and stockings, and, wading two or three hundred yards, I found the object to approach nearer by the force of the tide. Then I plainly saw it to be a real boat, which I supposed might by some tempest have been driven from a ship. Upon this I returned immediately towards the city, and desired His Majesty to lend me twenty of the tallest vessels he had left, after the loss of his fleet, and three thousand seamen, under the command of his vice-admiral.

This fleet sailed round while I went back the shortest way to the coast, where I first saw the boat. I found the tide had driven it still nearer. The seamen were all provided with cords, which I had beforehand twisted to a sufficient strength. When the ships came up, I stripped myself, and waded till I came within a hundred yards of the boat, after which I was forced to swim till I got up to it.

The seamen threw me the end of the cord, which I fastened to a hole in the forepart of the boat, and the other end to a man-of-war. But I found all my labour to little purpose; for, being out of my depth, I was not able to work. In this necessity I was forced to swim behind and push the boat forward, as often as I could, with one of my hands. The tide favouring me, I advanced so far that I could just hold up my chin and feel the ground. I rested two or three minutes, and then gave the boat another shove, and so on, till the sea was no higher than my armpits.

The hardest part being now over, I took out my other cables, which were stowed in one of the ships, and fastened them first to the boat and then to nine of the vessels which attended me. The wind being favourable, the seamen towed and I shoved, until we arrived within forty yards of the shore, and, waiting till the tide was out, I got to the boat dry. By the help of two thousand men, with ropes and engines, I made a shift to turn it on to its bottom, and found it was but little damaged.

I shall not trouble the reader with the difficulties I was under, by the help of certain paddles, which cost me ten days making, to get my boat into the royal port of Blefuscu. A mighty crowd of people appeared upon my arrival, full of wonder at the sight of so large a vessel. I told the Emperor that my good fortune had thrown this boat in my way to carry me to some place whence I might return to my native country; and begged His Majesty's orders for getting things to fit it up, together with his permission to depart. After some trouble, he was pleased to grant this.

I did very much wonder, in all this time, not to have heard of any message relating to me being sent from our Emperor to the Court of Blefuscu. But I was afterwards given privately to understand, that His Majesty, never thinking I had the least notice of his designs, believed I was only gone to Blefuscu according to my promise and the permission he had given me, which was well known at our Court, and would return in a few days, when the ceremony was ended.

But he was at last in pain at my long absence. After consulting with the treasurer and the rest of my enemies, a person of quality was sent with a copy of the articles against me. This envoy had instructions to represent to the monarch of Blefuscu the great kindness of his master, who was content to punish me no further than the loss

of mine eyes; that I had fled from justice; and if I did not return in two hours, I should be deprived of my title of *nardac*, and declared a traitor. The envoy further added, that in order to maintain the peace and amity between both empires, his master expected that his brother of Blefuscu would give orders to have me sent back to Lilliput, bound hand and foot, to be punished as a traitor.

The Emperor of Blefuscu, having taken three days to consult, returned an answer consisting of many civilities and excuses. He said that, as for sending me bound, his brother knew it was impossible; that although I had taken away his fleet, yet he owed great thanks to me for many good offices I had done him in making the peace. However, both their majesties would soon be made easy. For I had found a huge vessel on the shore, able to carry me on the sea, which he had given orders to fit up with my own help and direction. He hoped in a few weeks both empires would be freed from my presence.

With this answer the envoy returned to Lilliput, and the monarch of Blefuscu related to me all that had passed. He offered me at the same time (but under the strictest confidence) his gracious protection, if I would continue in his service. Although I believed him sincere, yet I resolved never more to put any confidence in princes or ministers, where I could possibly avoid it. Therefore, with all due acknowledgment of his kindly intentions, I humbly begged to be excused. I told him that, since fortune, whether good or evil, had thrown a vessel in my way, I was resolved to venture myself on the ocean, rather than be a cause of difference between two such mighty monarchs. I did not find the Emperor at all displeased, and I found, by a certain accident, that he was very glad of my resolve, and so were most of his ministers.

These reasons moved me to hasten my departure somewhat sooner than I intended. The Court, impatient to have me gone, very readily helped in my plan. Five hundred workmen were employed to make two sails to my boat according to my directions, by quilting thirteen folds of their strongest linen together. I was at the pains of making ropes and cables, by twisting ten, twenty, or thirty of the thickest and strongest of theirs.

A great stone that I happened to find, after a long search by the seashore, served me for an anchor. I had the tallow of three hundred cows for greasing my boat, and other uses. I was at great pains in cutting down some of the largest timber trees for oars and masts. In this I was, however, much assisted by His Majesty's ship-carpenters, who helped me in smoothing them after I had done the rough work.

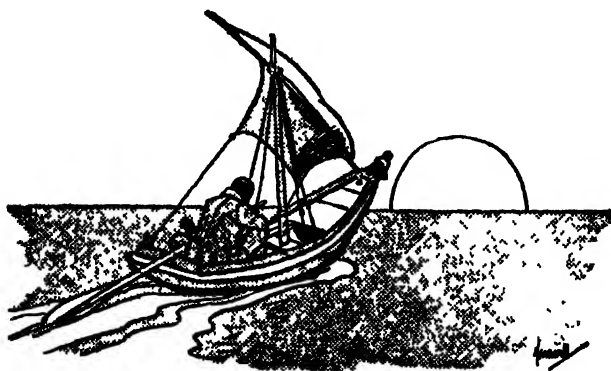
In about a month, when all was prepared, I sent to receive His Majesty's commands, and to take my leave. The Emperor and royal family came out of the palace. I lay down on my face to kiss his hand, which he very graciously gave me. So did the Empress and the young princes of the blood. His Majesty presented me with fifty purses of two hundred *sprugs* a-piece, together with his picture at full length, which I put immediately into one of my gloves, to keep it from being hurt. The ceremonies at my departure were too many to trouble the reader with at this time.

I stored the boat with the carcasses of a hundred oxen and three hundred sheep, with some bread and drink, and as much meat ready dressed as four hundred cooks could provide. I took with me six cows and two bulls alive, with as many ewes and rams, intending to carry them into my own country. To feed them on board, I had a good bundle of hay and a bag of corn.

I would gladly have taken a dozen of the natives, but

this was a thing the Emperor would by no means permit. Besides a diligent search into my pockets, His Majesty engaged my honour not to carry away any of his subjects, unless with their own consent and desire.

Having thus prepared all things as well as I was able, I set sail on the twenty-fourth day of September, 1701, at six in the morning. When I had gone about four leagues to the northward, the wind being at the south-east, at six in the evening I saw a small island, about



half a league to the north-west. I advanced forward, and cast anchor on the lee side of the island, which seemed to be uninhabited.

I then took some food, and went to my rest. I slept well, as I believe for at least six hours, for I found the day broke in two hours after I awoke. It was a clear night. I ate my breakfast before the sun was up. Heaving anchor, the wind being favourable, I then steered the same course that I had done the day before, as I was directed by my pocket compass. My intention was to reach, if possible, one of those islands which I had reason to believe lay to the north-east of Van Diemen's Land.

I found nothing all that day; but upon the next about

three in the afternoon, when I had by my reckoning made twenty-four leagues from Blefuscu, I saw a sail steering to the south-east. My course was due east. I hailed her, but could get no answer. Yet I found that I gained upon her, for the wind slackened. I made all the sail I could, and in half an hour she spied me, and fired a gun. It is not easy to express the joy I was in, upon the unexpected hope of once more seeing my beloved country, and the dear pledges I left in it.

The ship slackened her sails, and I came up with her between five and six in the evening, September 26. My heart leaped within me to see her English colours. I put my cows and sheep into my coat pocket, and got on board with all my little cargo of provisions.

I shall not trouble the reader with a particular account of this voyage, which was very prosperous for the most part. We arrived in the Downs on the 13th of April, 1702.

A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG

I. HOW GULLIVER FELL INTO STRANGE COMPANY

Having been condemned, by nature and fortune, to an active and restless life, in two months after my return I again left my native country on the good ship *Adventure*, bound for Surat. We had a very prosperous voyage, till we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, where we landed for fresh water. But discovering a leak, we unshipped our goods, and wintered there. The captain fell ill, and we could not leave the Cape till the end of March.

We then set sail, and had a good voyage till we passed the Straits of Madagascar. But having got northward of that island, and to about five degrees south latitude, the winds, which in those seas are observed to blow a constant equal gale between the north and west, from the beginning of December to the beginning of May, began on the 19th of April to blow with much greater violence, and more westerly than usual, continuing so for twenty days together.

During this storm, which was followed by a strong wind west-south-west, we were carried, by my reckoning, about five hundred leagues to the east, so that the oldest sailor on board could not tell in what part of the world we were.

On the 16th day of June, 1703, a boy on the topmast



GIANT CHASING GULLIVER'S FRIENDS

discovered land. When we came to it, we saw no river or spring, or any sign of inhabitants. Our men therefore wandered on the shore to find out some fresh water near the sea, and I walked alone about a mile on the other side, where I observed the country all barren and rocky. I now began to be weary, and, seeing nothing to entertain my curiosity, I returned slowly down towards the creek. The sea being full in my view, I saw our men already got into the boat, and rowing for life to the ship.

I was going to shout after them, although it had been to little purpose, when I observed a huge creature walking after them in the sea, as fast as he could. He waded not much deeper than his knees, and took great strides. But our men had the start of him half a league, and, the sea thereabouts being full of sharp-pointed rocks, the monster was not able to overtake the boat.

This I was afterwards told, for I durst not stay to see the result of the adventure. But I ran as fast as I could the way I first went, and then climbed up a steep hill, that gave me a view of the country. I found it fully cultivated. But that which first surprised me was the length of the grass, which, in those grounds that seemed to be kept for hay, was about twenty feet high.

I fell into a highroad, for so I took it to be, though it served to the inhabitants only as a footpath, through a field of barley. Here I walked on for some time, but could see little on either side, it being now near harvest, and the corn rising at least forty feet. I was an hour walking to the end of this field, which was fenced in with a hedge of at least one hundred and twenty feet high, and the trees so lofty that I could not tell their height.

There was a stile to pass from this field into the next. It had four steps, and a stone to cross over when you came to the uppermost. It was impossible for me to

climb this stile, because every step was six feet high, and the upper stone about twenty. I was trying to find some gap in the hedge, when I found one of the inhabitants in the next field, advancing towards the stile, of the same size with him whom I saw in the sea pursuing our boat.

He appeared as tall as a church spire, and took about ten yards at every stride, as near as I could guess. I was struck with the utmost fear and astonishment, and ran to hide myself in the corn. From my hiding-place I saw him at the top of the stile looking back into the next field on the right hand, and heard him call in a voice many degrees louder than a speaking trumpet. But the noise was so high in the air, that at first I certainly thought it was thunder. Upon this seven monsters, like himself, came towards him, with reaping hooks in their hands, each hook about the size of six scythes.

These people were not so well clad as the first, whose servants or labourers they seemed to be, for, upon some words he spoke, they went to reap the corn where I lay. I kept from them at as great a distance as I could, but was forced to move with great difficulty, for the stalks of corn were sometimes not above a foot distant, so that I could hardly squeeze my body betwixt them. However, I made a shift to go forward, till I came to a part of the field where the corn had been laid by the rain and wind. Here it was impossible for me to advance a step, for the stalks were so interwoven that I could not creep through, and the beards of the fallen ears so strong and pointed that they pierced through my clothes into my flesh.

At the same time I heard the reapers not above a hundred yards behind me. Being quite tired with toil, and wholly overcome by grief and despair, I lay down

between two ridges, and heartily wished I might there end my days. I bemoaned my lonely widow and fatherless children. I lamented my own folly and wilfulness, in attempting a second voyage, against the advice of all my friends and relations.

In this terrible state of mind, I could not forbear thinking of Lilliput, whose inhabitants looked upon me as the greatest wonder that ever appeared in the world, where I was able to draw a fleet in my hand, and perform those other actions, which will be recorded for ever in the chronicles of that empire. I reflected what a pity it must prove to me to appear as small in this nation as one single Lilliputian would be among us.

But this I thought was to be the least of my misfortunes; for, as human creatures are observed to be more savage and cruel in proportion to their size, what could I expect but to be a morsel in the mouth of the first among these huge barbarians who should happen to seize me?

Frightened as I was, I could not forbear going on with these thoughts, when one of the reapers, approaching within ten yards of the ridge where I lay, made me fear that with the next step I should be crushed to death under his foot, or cut in two with his reaping-hook. Therefore, when he was again about to move, I screamed as loud as fear could make me. Then the huge creature trod short, and, looking round about under him for some time, at last espied me as I lay on the ground.

He considered awhile, with the caution of one who tries to lay hold of a small dangerous animal in such a manner that it shall not be able either to scratch or bite him. At length he took me behind, by the middle, between his forefinger and thumb, and brought me within three yards of his eyes, that he might behold my shape more perfectly. I guessed his meaning, and my good

fortune gave me so much presence of mind that I resolved not to struggle in the least as he held me in the air, above sixty feet from the ground, although he pinched my sides, for fear I should slip through his fingers.

All I did was to raise mine eyes towards the sun, and ~~place~~ my hands together, and to speak some words in a humble, sad tone, suitable to the condition I was then in. For I feared every moment that he would dash me against the ground, as we usually do any little hateful animal which we have a mind to destroy. But my good star would have it that he appeared pleased with my voice and gestures, and began to look upon me as a strange sight, much wondering to hear me speak some words, although he could not understand them.



In the meantime I was not able to forbear groaning, and shedding tears, and turning my head towards my sides; letting him know, as well as I could, how cruelly I was hurt by the pressure of his thumb and finger. He seemed to understand my meaning, for, lifting up the lappet of his coat, he put me gently into it, and immediately ran along with me to his master, who was a farmer, and the same person I had first seen in the field.

The farmer having (as I supposed by their talk) received such an account of me as his servant could give him, took a piece of a small straw, about the size of a walking-staff, and therewith lifted up the lappets of my

coat. This it seems he thought to be some kind of covering that nature had given me. He blew my hair aside to take a better view of my face. He called his hinds about him, and asked them, as I afterwards learned, whether they had ever seen any little creature in the fields that looked like me.

He then placed me softly on the ground upon ~~all~~-fours, but I got immediately up, and walked slowly backward and forward, to let those people see I had no intention of running away. They all sat down in a circle about me, the better to observe my movements. I pulled off my hat, and made a low bow towards the farmer. I fell on my knees, and lifted up my hands and eyes, and spoke several words as loud as I could. I took a purse of gold out of my pocket, and humbly presented it to him.

He received it on the palm of his hand, then applied it close to his eye to see what it was, and afterwards turned it several times with the point of a pin (which he took out of his sleeve), but could make nothing of it. Whereupon I made a sign that he should place his hand on the ground. I then took the purse, and, opening it, poured all the gold into his palm. There were six Spanish pieces, beside twenty or thirty smaller coins. I saw him wet the tip of his little finger upon his tongue, and take up one of my largest pieces, and then another. But he did not seem to know what they were. He made me a sign to put them again into my purse, and the purse again into my pocket, which, after offering it to him several times, I thought it best to do.

The farmer, by this time, was sure I must be a rational creature. He spoke often to me. But the sound of his voice pierced my ears like that of a water-mill, yet his words were clear enough. I answered as loud as I could in several languages, and he often laid his ear within two

yards of me. But all in vain, for we did not understand each other.

He then sent his servants to their work, and taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, he doubled and spread it on his left hand. This he placed flat on the ground, with the palm upward, making me a sign to ~~step into it~~ as I could easily do, for it was not above a foot in thickness. I thought it my part to obey, and, for fear of falling, laid myself at full length upon the handkerchief, with the remainder of which he wrapped me up to the head for further safety. In this manner he carried me home to his house.

There he called his wife, and showed me to her. But she screamed and ran back, as women in England do at the sight of a toad or a spider. However, when she had seen my conduct, and how well I observed the signs her husband made, she was soon quite pleased, and by degrees grew very tender of me.

It was about twelve at noon, and a servant brought in dinner. It was only one dish of meat (fit for the plain condition of a husbandman), in a dish of about four-and-twenty feet diameter. The company were the farmer, and his wife, three children, and an old grandmother. When they had sat down, the farmer placed me at some distance from him on the table, which was thirty feet high from the floor.

I was in a terrible fright, and kept as far as I could from the edge, for fear of falling. The wife minced a bit of meat, then crumbled some bread on a trencher, and placed it before me. I made her a low bow, took out my knife and fork, and fell to eat, which gave them great delight. The mistress sent her maid for a small cup, which held about two gallons, and filled it with drink.

I took up the vessel with much difficulty in both hands, and in a most respectful manner drank to her

ladyship's health, expressing the words as loud^d as I could in English, which made the company laugh so heartily that I was almost deafened with the noise. This drink tasted like a small cider, and was not unpleasant. Then the master made me a sign to come to the side of his trencher. But as I walked on the table, being in great surprise all the time, as the reader will easily think and excuse, I happened to stumble against a crust, and fell flat on my face, but received no hurt.

I got up immediately, and observing the good people to be in much concern, I took my hat (which I held under my arm out of good manners), and waving it over my head made three huzzas, to show I had got no mischief by my fall. But, advancing forward towards my master (as I shall henceforth call him), his youngest son, who sat next to him, a boy of about ten years old, took me up by the legs, and held me so high in the air that I trembled in every limb. But his father snatched me from him, and at the same time gave him such a box on the left ear as would have felled a European troop of horse to the earth, and ordered him to be taken from the table.

Being afraid this boy might owe me a spite, and well remembering how mischievous all children among us naturally are to sparrows, rabbits, young kittens, and puppy dogs, I fell on my knees, and, pointing to the boy, made my master understand as well as I could, that I desired his son might be pardoned. The father agreed, and the lad took his seat again, and I went to him and kissed his hand, which my master took, and made him stroke me gently with.

In the midst of dinner, my mistress's favourite cat leaped into her lap. I heard a noise behind me like that of a dozen stocking-weavers at work. Turning my head, I found it came from the purring of that animal,

who seemed to be three times larger than an ox, as I thought by the view of her head, and one of her paws, while her mistress was feeding and stroking her.

The fierceness of this creature's face altogether frightened me, though I stood at the farther end of the table, above fifty feet off, and though my mistress held her fast, ~~for~~ fear she might give a spring, and seize me in her claws. But it happened there was no danger, for the cat took not the least notice of me, when my master placed me within three yards of her.

As I have been always told, and found true by experience in my travels, that flying or showing fear before a fierce animal is a certain way to make it pursue or attack you, so I resolved to show no manner of concern. I walked with courage five or six times before the very head of the cat, and came within half a yard of her. On this she drew herself back, as if she were afraid of me. I had less fear concerning the dogs, of which three or four came into the room, as it is usual in farmers' houses. One of them was a mastiff, equal in size to four elephants, and a greyhound, somewhat taller than the mastiff, but not so large.

When dinner was almost done, the nurse came in with a child of a year old in her arms, who immediately spied me, and began a squall that you might have heard from London Bridge to Chelsea, after the usual way of infants, to get me for a plaything. The mother took me up, and put me towards the child, who presently seized me by the middle, and put my head into his mouth. At this I roared so loudly that the urchin was frightened, and let me drop, and I should have broken my neck, if the mother had not held her apron under me. The nurse, to quieten her babe, made use of a rattle, which was a kind of hollow vessel filled with great stones, and fastened by a cable to the child's waist.

creatures were of the size of a large mastiff, but more nimble and fierce. So that if I had taken off my belt before I went to sleep, I must have been torn to pieces and devoured. I measured the tail of the dead rat, and found it to be two yards long, wanting an inch. But I did not like to draw the carcass off the bed, where it lay still bleeding. I observed it had yet some life, but with a strong slash across the neck, I thoroughly killed it.

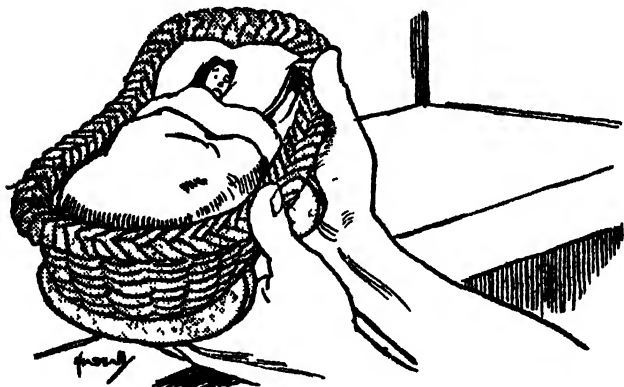
Soon after, my mistress came into the room, who, seeing me all covered with blood, ran and took me up in her hand. I pointed to the dead rat, smiling, and making other signs to show I was not hurt. At this she was greatly rejoiced, calling the maid to take up the dead rat with a pair of tongs and throw it out of the window. Then she set me on a table, where I showed her my sword all blood, and, wiping it on the lappet of my coat, returned it to the sheath.

II. GULLIVER MAKES THE FARMER'S FORTUNE

My mistress had a daughter of nine years old, a child of towardly parts for her age, very clever at her needle, and skilful in dressing her baby. Her mother and she fitted up the baby's cradle for me against night. The cradle was put into a small drawer of a cabinet, and the drawer placed upon a hanging shelf for fear of the rats. This was my bed all the time I stayed with those people, though made more convenient by degrees, as I began to learn their language, and make my wants known.

This young girl was my schoolmistress, to teach me the language. When I pointed to anything, she told me the name of it in her own tongue, so that in a few days I was able to call for whatever I had a mind to. She was very good-natured, and not above forty feet

high, being little of her age. She gave me the name of *Mannikin*. To her I chiefly owe my safety in that country; we never parted while I was there. I called her my *Glumdalclitch*, or little nurse. I should be very ungrateful, if I omitted this honourable mention of her care and affection towards me, which I heartily wish it lay in my power to requite as she deserves, instead of being the innocent but unhappy means of her disgrace, as I have too much reason to fear.



It now began to be known and talked of in the neighbourhood, that my master had found a strange animal in the field exactly shaped in every part like a human creature, which it likewise imitated in all its actions. It seemed to speak in a little language of its own, had already learned several words of theirs, went erect upon two legs, was tame and gentle, would come when it was called, do whatever it was bid, and had the finest limbs in the world, and a complexion fairer than a nobleman's daughter of three years old.

Another farmer, who lived hard by, and was a great friend of my master, came on a visit on purpose to

enquire into the truth of this story. I was immediately produced, and placed upon a table, where I walked as I was commanded, drew my sword, put it up again, made my reverence to my master's guest, asked him in his own language how he did, and told him *he was welcome*, just as my little nurse had instructed me.

This man, who was old and dim-sighted, put on his glasses ~~to~~ see me better. At this I could not help laughing very heartily, for his eyes appeared like the full moon shining into a chamber at two windows. Our people, who found out the cause of my mirth, bore me company in laughing, at which the old fellow was fool enough to be angry. He had the name of being a great miser, and, to my misfortune, he well deserved it, by the advice he gave my master, to show me as a sight upon a market day, in the next town, which was half an hour's riding, about two-and-twenty miles from our house.

I guessed there was some mischief abroad, when I observed my master and his friend whispering long together, and sometimes pointing at me. My fears made them fancy that I overheard and understood some of their words. But the next morning Glumdalclitch, my little nurse, told me the whole matter, which she had cunningly found out from her mother. The poor girl laid me on her bosom, and began weeping with shame and grief. She feared some mischief would happen to me from rude folks, who might squeeze me to death, or break one of my limbs by taking me in their hands.

She had also observed how modest I was in my nature, how nicely I regarded my honour, and how badly I would feel to be exposed for money as a public show, to the meanest of the people. She said her papa and mamma had promised that Mannikin should be hers; but now she found they meant to serve her as they did

last year, when they pretended to give her a lamb, and yet, as soon as it was fat, sold it to a butcher.

For my own part, I may truly affirm, that I was less concerned than my nurse. I had a strong hope, which never left me, that I should one day recover my liberty.

My master, following the advice of his friend, carried me in a box the next market day to the neighbouring town, and took along with him his little daughter, my nurse, behind him. The box was closed on every side, with a little door for me to go in and out, and a few holes to let in air. The girl had been so careful as to put the quilt of her baby's bed into it for me to lie down on.

However, I was terribly shaken and disturbed in this journey, though it was but of half an hour, for the horse went about forty feet at every step, and trotted so high that the movement was equal to the rising and falling of a ship in a great storm, but much more frequent. My master alighted at an inn which he used to visit. After consulting for some time with the innkeeper, and making some needful preparations, he hired the crier, to give notice through the town of a strange creature to be seen at the sign of the Green Eagle, not so big as a *splacnuck* (an animal in that country, very finely shaped, about six feet long, and in every part of the body like a human creature), and which could speak several words and perform a hundred amusing tricks.

I was placed upon a table in the largest room of the inn, which might be nearly three hundred feet square. My little nurse stood on a low stool close to the table, to take care of me, and direct what I should do. My master, to avoid a crowd, would suffer only thirty people at a time to see me. I walked about on the table as the girl commanded. She asked me questions, as far as she knew my understanding of the language reached, and I answered them as loudly as I could.

I turned about several times to the company, paid my humble respects, said *they were welcome*, and used some other speeches I had been taught. I took up a thimble filled with drink, which Glumdalclitch had given me for a cup, and drank their health. I drew out my sword, and flourished it after the manner of fencers in England.

My nurse gave me a part of a straw, which I exercised as a pike, having learnt the art in my youth. I was that day shown to twelve sets of company, and as often forced to act over again the same things, till I was half-dead with weariness and vexation. Those who had seen me made such wonderful reports, that the people were ready to break down the doors to come in.

My master, for his own interest, would not suffer anyone to touch me except my nurse, and, to prevent danger, benches were set round the table at such distance as put me out of everybody's reach. However, an unlucky schoolboy aimed a hazel nut directly at my head, which very narrowly missed me. It came with so much violence that it would have knocked out my brains, for it was almost as large as a small pumpkin. But I had the satisfaction to see the young rogue well beaten, and turned out of the room.

My master gave public notice that he would show me again the next market day. In the meantime he prepared a more convenient vehicle for me, which he had reason enough to do. I was so tired by my first journey, and by amusing company for eight hours together, that I could hardly stand upon my legs, or speak a word. It was at least three days before I recovered my strength; and, that I might have no rest at home, all the neighbouring gentlemen from a hundred miles round, hearing of my fame, came to see me at my master's own house.

My master, finding how profitable I was likely to be, resolved to carry me to the largest cities in the kingdom.

Having therefore provided himself with all things needed for a long journey, and settled his affairs at home, he took leave of his wife, and on the 17th of August, 1703, about two months after my arrival, we set out for the metropolis, which was near the middle of that empire, and about three thousand miles distant from our house. My master made his daughter Glumdalclitch ride behind him. She carried me on her lap, in a box tied about her waist.

My master's plan was to show me in all the towns by the way, and to go out of the road, for fifty or a hundred miles, to any village, or person of quality's house, where he might expect custom. We made easy journeys, of not above seven or eight score miles a day: for Glumdalclitch, on purpose to spare me, complained she was tired with the trotting of the horse. She often took me out of my box at my desire, to give me air, and show me the country, but always held me fast by a leading-string. We were ten weeks on our journey, and I was shown in eighteen large towns, besides at many villages and at the houses of private families

On the 26th day of October, we arrived in the metropolis. My master took a lodging in the chief street in the city, not far from the royal palace, and put out bills in the usual form, containing an exact account of my person and parts. He hired a large room between three and four hundred feet wide. He provided a table sixty feet in diameter, upon which I was to act my part, and put a fence round it three feet from the edge, and as many high, to prevent my falling over. I was shown ten times a day, to the wonder and satisfaction of all people. I could now speak the language fairly well, and perfectly understood every word that was spoken to me. Besides, I had learnt their alphabet, and could make a shift to explain a sentence, here and there.

III. GULLIVER GOES TO COURT

The frequent labours I underwent every day made, in a few weeks, a very great change in my health. The more my master got by me the more he wished to get. I could not take my food, and was almost reduced to a skeleton. The farmer, observing it, and concluding I must soon die, resolved to make as much out of me as he could. While he was thus reasoning and resolving with himself, a gentleman-usher came from Court, commanding my master to carry me immediately thither for the amusement of the Queen and her ladies.

Some of the latter had already been to see me, and reported strange things of my beauty, conduct, and good sense. Her Majesty, and those who attended her, were beyond measure delighted with my conduct. I fell on my knees, and begged the honour of kissing her foot. But this gracious princess held out her little finger towards me, after I was set on the table, which I embraced in both my arms, and put the tip of it with the utmost respect to my lip. She asked me some general questions about my country and my travels, which I answered as clearly, and in as few words, as I could.

She asked whether I could be content to live at Court. I bowed down to the board of the table, and humbly answered, that I was my master's slave. But if I were at my own disposal, I should be proud to devote my life to Her Majesty's service. She then asked my master whether he was willing to sell me at a good price. He, who feared that I could not live a month, was ready enough to part with me, and demanded a thousand pieces of gold, which were ordered him on the spot, each piece being about the size of eight hundred moidores. But, allowing for the proportion of all things

between that country and Europe, and the high price of gold among them, this was hardly so great a sum as a thousand guineas would be in England.

I then said to the Queen, that since I was now Her Majesty's most humble creature and vassal, I must beg the favour that Glumdalclitch, who had always tended me with so much care and kindness, and understood how to do it so well, might be admitted into her service, and continue to be my nurse and instructor.

Her Majesty agreed to my petition, and easily got the farmer's consent, who was glad enough to have his daughter preferred at Court, and the poor girl herself was not able to hide her joy. My late master withdrew, bidding me farewell, and saying, he had left me in good service. To this I replied not a word, only making him a slight bow.

The Queen observed my coldness, and when the farmer was gone out of the room, asked me the reason. I made bold to tell Her Majesty, that I owed no other obligation to my late master than his not dashing out the brains of a poor harmless creature, found by chance in his fields. This obligation was amply repaid by the gain he had made in showing me through half the kingdom, and the price he had now sold me for.

This was the sum of my speech, delivered with great hesitation.

The Queen, giving great allowance for my difficulty in speaking, was, however, surprised at so much wit and good sense in so small an animal. She took me in her own hand, and carried me to the King, who was then in his own chamber. His Majesty, not well observing my shape at first view, asked the Queen, after a cold manner, "how long it was since she grew fond of a *splacnuck*?" For such, it seems, he took me to be, as I lay upon my breast in Her Majesty's right hand.

But when he heard my voice, and found what I delivered to be regular and rational, he could not hide his surprise.

He desired the Queen to order that care should be taken of me.

The Queen commanded her own cabinet-maker to make a box, that might serve me for a bed-chamber. This man, according to my direction, in three weeks finished for me a wooden chamber of sixteen feet square, and twelve high, with sash-windows, a door, and two closets, like a London bed-chamber. The board that made the top was to be lifted up and down by two hinges, to put in a bed ready furnished by Her Majesty's upholsterer, which Glumdalclitch took out every day to air, made with her own hands, and, letting down at night, locked up the roof over me.

A nice workman, who was famous for little curiosities, undertook to make me two chairs, with backs and frames, of a substance not unlike ivory, and two tables, with a cabinet to put my things in. The room was quilted on all sides, as well as the floor and the roof, to prevent any accident from the carelessness of those who carried me, and to break the force of a jolt, when I went in a coach.

I desired a lock for my door, to prevent rats and mice coming in. The smith, after several attempts, made the smallest that ever was seen among them, but I have known a larger at the gate of a gentleman's house in England. I made a shift to keep the key in a pocket of my own, fearing Glumdalclitch might lose it.

The Queen became so fond of my company that she could not dine without me. I had a table placed upon the same table at which Her Majesty ate, just at her elbow, and a chair to sit on. Glumdalclitch stood on a stool on the floor near my table to assist and take care of me. I had an entire set of silver dishes and plates,

and other necessities, which, in proportion to those of the Queen, were not much bigger than what I have seen in a London toyshop, for the furniture of a baby-house. These my little nurse kept in her pocket in a silver box, and gave me at meals as I wanted them, always cleaning them herself.

No person dined with the Queen but the two princesses royal, the eldest sixteen years old, and the



younger at that time thirteen and a month. Her Majesty used to put a bit of meat upon one of my dishes, out of which I carved for myself, and her amusement was to see me eat. For the Queen (who had indeed but a weak stomach) took up, at one mouthful, as much as a dozen English farmers could eat at a meal, which to me was for some time a very nasty sight. She would crunch the wing of a lark, bones and all, between her teeth, although it were nine times as large as that of a full-grown turkey; and put a bit of bread in her mouth, as big as two twelve-penny loaves.

She drank out of a golden cup, above a hogshead at a draught. Her knives were twice as long as a scythe, set

straight upon the handle. The spoons, forks, and other instruments were all in the same proportion. I remember when Glumdalclitch carried me, out of curiosity, to see some of the tables at Court, where ten or a dozen of those large knives and forks were lifted up together, I thought I had never till then beheld so terrible a sight.

- After having been accustomed several months to the sight and talk of this people, and having observed every object upon which I cast mine eyes to be of very large size, the horror I had at first felt from their size and aspect so far wore off. And if I had then beheld a company of English lords and ladies in their finery and birthday clothes, acting their parts in the most courtly manner of strutting, and bowing, and talking, to say the truth, I should have been strongly tempted to laugh as much at them as the King and his grandees did at me.

Neither, indeed, could I forbear smiling at myself, when the Queen used to place me upon her hand towards a looking-glass, by which both our persons appeared before me in full view together. There could be nothing more funny than the comparison. So that I really began to imagine myself dwindled many degrees below my usual size.

Nothing vexed and angered me so much as the Queen's dwarf. He being the smallest person ever seen in that country (for I verily think he was not full thirty feet high), became so impudent at seeing a creature so much beneath him, that he would always affect to swagger and look big as he passed by me in the Queen's antechamber, while I was standing on some table talking with the lords or ladies of the Court. And he seldom failed of a smart word or two upon my littleness. Against this I could only revenge myself by calling him brother, challenging him to wrestle, and such smart sayings as are usually in the mouths of Court pages.

One day, at dinner, this wicked little cub was so annoyed with something I had said to him, that, raising himself upon the frame of Her Majesty's chair, he took me up by the middle, as I was sitting down, not thinking any harm, and let me drop into a large silver bowl of cream, and then ran away as fast as he could. I fell over head and ears, and if I had not been a good swimmer it might have gone very hard with me. But

my little nurse ran to my relief, and took me out, after I had swallowed above a quart of cream.



I was put to bed. However, I received no other damage than the loss of a suit of clothes, which was utterly spoiled. The dwarf was soundly whipped, and, as a further punishment, forced to drink up the bowl of cream into which he had thrown me; neither was he ever restored to favour.

I was frequently rallied by the Queen for being so much afraid. She used to ask me whether the people of my country were as great cowards as myself. The occasion was this. The kingdom was much troubled with flies in the summer. These hateful insects, each of them as big as a lark, hardly gave me any rest while I sat at dinner, with their constant humming and buzzing about mine ears. Sometimes they would fix upon my nose or forehead, where they stung me to the quick, smelling very badly. I could easily trace that sticky matter, which, our naturalists tell us, enables those creatures to walk with their feet upwards upon a roof.

I had much ado to defend myself against these hateful animals, and could not forbear starting when they came on my face. It was the common practice of the dwarf to catch a number of these insects in his hand, as schoolboys do among us, and then let them out suddenly under my nose, on purpose to frighten me, and amuse the Queen. My cure was to cut them in pieces with my knife, as they flew in the air, my skill in doing which was much admired.

IV. GULLIVER LEAVES BROBDINGNAG

I had now been two years in this country. About the beginning of the third, Glumdalclitch and I attended the King and Queen, in a progress to the south coast of the kingdom. I was carried, as usual, in my travelling-box, which, as I have already described, was a very convenient closet twelve feet wide.

When we came to our journey's end, the King thought proper to pass a few days at a palace he has near Flanflasnic, a city within eighteen English miles of the seaside. Glumdalclitch and I were very tired. I had got a slight cold, but the poor girl was so ill as to be confined to her chamber. I longed to see the ocean, which must be the only way of my escape, if ever it should happen.

I pretended to be worse than I really was, and desired leave to take the fresh air of the sea, with a page whom I was very fond of, and who had sometimes been trusted with me. I shall never forget with what unwillingness Glumdalclitch consented, or the strict charge she gave the page to be careful of me, bursting at the same time into a flood of tears, as if she had some idea of what was to happen.

The boy took me out in my box, about half an hour's

walk from the palace, towards the rocks on the seashore. I ordered him to set me down, and, lifting up one of my sashes, cast many a wistful look towards the sea. I found myself not very well, and told the page that I had a mind to take a nap in my hammock, which I hoped would do me good. I got in, and the boy shut the window close down to keep out the cold.

I soon fell asleep, and all I can guess is, while I slept, the page, thinking no danger could happen, went among the rocks to look for birds' eggs, having before observed him from my window searching about, and picking up one or two in the clefts. Be that as it may, I found myself suddenly awaked by a violent pull upon the ring, which was fastened at the top of my box, for the convenience of carriage. I felt my box raised very high in the air, and then borne forward with great speed.

The first jolt was like to shake me out of my hammock, but afterwards the motion was easy enough. I called out several times as loud as I could raise my voice, but all to no purpose. I looked towards my windows, and could see nothing but the clouds and sky. I heard a noise just over my head like the clapping of wings, and then began to perceive the sad condition I was in. Some eagle had got the ring of my box in his beak, with an intent to let it fall on a rock, like a tortoise in a shell, and then pick out my body, and devour it; for the cleverness and smell of this bird enable him to discover his prey at a great distance, though better hidden than I could be within a two-inch board.

In a little time I observed the noise and flutter of wings to increase very fast, and my box was tossed up and down like a sign on a windy day. I heard several bangs or buffets, as I thought, given to the eagle (for such I am certain it must have been that held the ring of my box in his beak), and then, all of a sudden, felt

myself falling down, for above a minute, but with such great swiftness that I almost lost my breath.

My fall was stopped by a terrible splash, that sounded louder to my ears than the falls of Niagara. After this I was quite in the dark for another minute, and then my box began to rise so high that I could see light from the tops of the windows. I now saw I was fallen into the sea. My box, by the weight of my body, the goods that were in, and the broad plate of iron fixed for strength at the four corners of the top and bottom, floated about five feet deep in water.

I did then, and do now, suppose that the eagle which flew away with my box was pursued by two or three others, and forced to let me drop, while he defended himself against the rest, who hoped to share in the prey. The plates of iron fastened at the bottom of the box (for those were the strongest) preserved the balance while it fell, and hindered it from being broken on the surface of the water. Every joint of it was well grooved; and the door did not move on hinges, but up and down like a sash, which kept my closet so tight that very little water came in. I got with much difficulty out of my hammock, having first drawn back the slipboard on the roof already mentioned, made on purpose to let in air, for want of which I found myself almost stifled.

How often did I then wish myself with my dear Glumdalclitch, from whom one single hour had so far divided me! I was four hours under these circumstances, expecting, and indeed wishing, every moment to be my last. Being in this sad state I heard, or at least thought I heard, some kind of grating noise on that side of my box where the staples were fixed for carrying it. Soon after I began to fancy that the box was pulled or towed along the sea. I now and then felt a sort of tugging, which made the waves rise near

the tops of my windows, leaving me almost in the dark. This gave me some faint hopes of relief, although I was not able to think how it could be brought about.

I ventured to unscrew one of my chairs, which were always fastened to the floor. Having made a hard shift to screw it down again, directly under the slipping-board that I had lately opened, I mounted on the chair, and, putting my mouth as near as I could to the hole, I called for help in a loud voice, and in all the languages I understood. I then fastened my handkerchief to a stick I usually carried, and, thrusting it up the hole, waved it several times in the air, that if any boat or ship were near, the seamen might think some unhappy mortal was shut up in the box.

I found no effect from all I could do, but plainly perceived my closet to be moved along. In the space of an hour, or better, that side of the box where the staples were, and which had no windows, struck against something that was hard. I feared it was a rock, and found myself tossed more than ever. I plainly heard a noise upon the cover of my closet, like that of a cable, and the grating of it as it passed through the ring. I then found myself hoisted up by degrees, at least three feet higher than I was before.

Upon this I again thrust up my stick and handkerchief, calling for help till I was almost hoarse. In return to these cries I heard a great shout repeated three times, giving me such feelings of joy as are not to be thought of but by those who feel them. I now heard a trampling over my head, and somebody calling through the hole with a loud voice, in the English tongue, that if there was anybody below, he was to speak. I answered I was an Englishman drawn by ill fortune into the greatest calamity that ever any creature underwent, and

begged, by all that was moving, to be delivered out of the prison I was in.

The voice replied that I was safe, for my box was fastened to their ship. The carpenter should immediately come and saw a hole in the cover, large enough to pull me out. I answered that that was needless, and would take up too much time. There was no more to be done, but to let one of the crew put his finger into the ring, and take the box out of the sea into the ship, and so into the captain's cabin. Some of them, upon hearing me talk so wildly, thought I was mad. Others laughed. Indeed, it never came into my head that I was now among people of my own size and strength. The carpenter came, and in a few minutes sawed a passage of about four feet square, then let down a small ladder, upon which I mounted, and thence was taken into the ship in a very weak condition.

The sailors were all in amazement, and asked me a thousand questions which I had no desire to answer. But the captain, Mr. Thomas Wilcocks, an honest, worthy Shropshire man, observing I was ready to faint, took me into his cabin, gave me a cordial to comfort me, and made me turn in upon his own bed, advising me to take a little rest, of which I had great need.

Upon waking I found myself much recovered. It was now about eight o'clock at night, and the captain ordered supper immediately, thinking I had already fasted too long. He entertained me with great kindness, observing me not to look wildly or talk foolishly. When we were left alone, he desired I would give him an account of my travels, and by what accident I came to be set adrift in that huge wooden chest.

I begged his patience to hear me tell my story, which I faithfully did, from the last time I left England to the moment he first discovered me. And as truth always

forces its way into rational minds, so this honest, worthy gentleman, who had some learning, and very good sense, was immediately convinced of the truth I spoke.

Our voyage was very prosperous, but I shall not trouble the reader with a journal of it. I left the ship when we came into the Downs, which was on the third day of June, 1706, about nine months after my escape. ~

A VOYAGE TO LAPUTA, BALNIBARBI, AND LUGGNAGG

I had not been at home above ten days when Captain William Robinson, a Cornish man, commander of the *Hopewell*, a stout ship of three hundred tons, came to my house. I had formerly been surgeon of another ship where he was master, and hearing of my arrival he now made me a visit. After expressing his joy to find me in good health, he told me that he intended a voyage to the East Indies in two months, and at last he plainly invited me, though with some apologies, to be surgeon of the ship.

He said so many other kind things, and I knew him to be so honest a man, that I could not say no, the thirst I had of seeing the world, in spite of my past misfortunes, being still as strong as ever.

We set out the 5th day of August, 1706, and arrived at Fort St George¹ the 11th of April, 1707. We stayed there three weeks to refresh our crew, many of whom were sick. From thence we went to Tonquin, where the captain resolved to stay some time, because many of the goods he intended to buy were not ready, nor could be for some months. Therefore, in hopes to defray some of the charges he must be at, he bought a sloop, loaded it with several sorts of goods, and putting fourteen men on board, he appointed me master of the sloop,

¹An old name of Madras the fort or citadel of the town being so named.

and gave me power to traffic while he did his business at Tonquin.

We had not sailed above three days, when a great storm arising, we were driven five days to the north-north-east, and then to the east; after which we had fair



“He said so many kind things that I could not reject his proposal.”

weather, but still with a pretty strong gale from the west. Upon the tenth day we were chased by two pirates, who soon overtook us.

We were boarded about the same time by both the pirates, who entered furiously at the head of their men. They pinioned us with strong ropes, and, setting a guard upon us, went to search the sloop.

The larger of the two pirate ships was commanded by a Japanese captain, who spoke a little Dutch, but very imperfectly. He came up to me, and, after several questions, which I answered in great humility, he said we should not die. My men were sent by an equal division into both the pirate ships and my sloop new-manned. As to myself, it was determined that I should be set adrift in a small canoe, with paddles and a sail, and four days' provisions.

When I was at some distance from the pirates, I discovered by my pocket glass several islands to the south-east. I set up my sail, the wind being fair, hoping to reach the nearest of those islands, which I made a shift to do in about three hours. It was all rocky: however, I got many birds' eggs; and, lighting a fire, I roasted my eggs, and passed the night under the shelter of a rock.

The next day I sailed to another island, and thence to a third and fourth, sometimes using my sail, and sometimes my paddles. On the fifth day I arrived at the last island in my sight, which lay south-south-east to the former.

This island was at a greater distance than I expected, and I did not reach it in less than five hours. I sailed almost round it before I could find a good place to land in; which was a small creek, about three times the width of my canoe. I found the island to be all rocky, with only a few tufts of grass and sweet-smelling herbs. I took out my small provisions, and, after having refreshed myself, I secured the remainder in a cave. I lay all night in the cave on a bed of dry grass and seaweed. I slept very little, for the disquiets of my mind prevailed over my weariness, and kept me awake. Yet I found myself so listless and desponding, that I had not the heart to rise; and, before I could get spirits enough

to creep out of my cave, the day was far advanced.

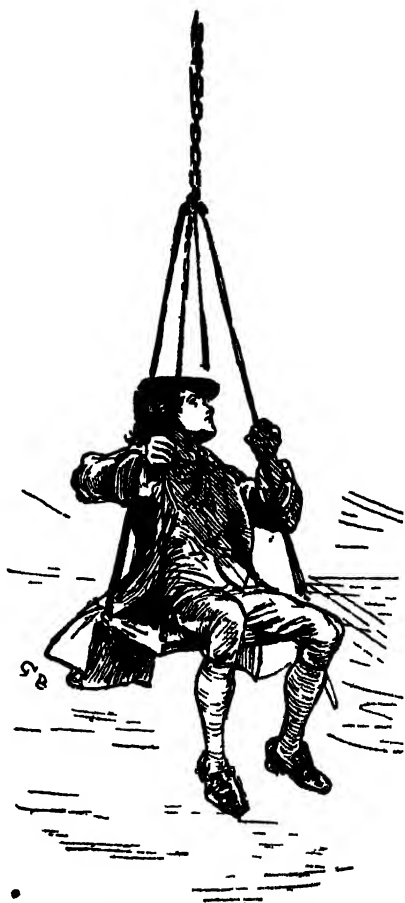
I walked a while among the rocks: the sky was perfectly clear, and the sun so hot, that I was forced to turn my face from it; when, all on a sudden, it became obscure, as I thought, in a manner very different from what happens when a cloud hides the sun. I turned back, and perceived a vast dark body between me and the sun, moving forwards towards the island: it seemed to be about two miles high, and hid the sun six or seven minutes; but I did not observe the air to be much colder, or the sky more darkened, than if I had stood under the shade of a mountain. As it drew nearer over the place where I was, it appeared to be a firm substance, the bottom flat, smooth, and shining very bright, from the reflection of the sea below. I stood upon a height about two hundred yards from the shore, and saw this vast body descending almost to a parallel with me, at less than an English mile distance. I took out my pocket spy-glass, and could plainly see numbers of people moving up and down the sides of it, which appeared to be sloping; but what those people were doing, I was not able to make out.

The love of life gave me some inward joy, and I was ready to hope that this adventure might, some way or other, help to deliver me from the danger I was in. But at the same time, the reader can fancy my astonishment to behold an island in the air, inhabited by men who were able (as it should seem) to raise or sink, or set it moving forward, as they pleased. It seemed for a while to stand still. Yet, soon after, it advanced nearer, and I could see the sides of it encompassed with several galleries one above the other, and stairs, at certain intervals, to connect them.

In the lowest gallery I beheld some people fishing with long angling rods, and others looking on. I waved

my cap and my handkerchief towards the island, and upon its nearer approach, I called and shouted with the utmost strength of my voice, and then looking carefully, I beheld a crowd gather to that side which was most in my view. I found by their pointing towards me, and to each other, that they plainly saw me, although they made no return to my shouting. But I could see four or five men running in great haste up the stairs, to the top of the island. I guessed, rightly as it turned out, that these were sent for orders, to some person in authority.

The number of people increased, and in less than half an hour the island was moved and raised in such



"I was drawn up by pulleys."

a manner, that the lowest gallery appeared less than a hundred yards distant from the height where I stood. I then put myself into the most supplicating postures,

and spoke in the humblest accent, but received no answer. Those who stood nearest over against me seemed to be persons of note, as I supposed by their habit. They spoke earnestly with each other, looking often upon me. At length one of them called out in a clear, polite, smooth dialect, not unlike in sound to



“I having never till then seen a race of mortals so odd.”

the Italian; and therefore, I returned an answer in that language, hoping at least that the cadence might be more agreeable to his ears. Although neither of us understood the other, yet my meaning was easily known, for the people saw the distress I was in.

They made signs for me to come down from the rock, and go towards the shore, which I accordingly did; and the flying island being raised to a convenient height, the verge directly over me, a chain was let down from the

lowest gallery, with a seat fastened to the bottom, to which I fixed myself, and was drawn up by pulleys.

At my alighting I was surrounded by a crowd of people. They beheld me with all the marks of wonder; neither, indeed, was I less amazed, having never till then seen a race of mortals so odd in their shapes, habits, and faces. Their heads were all inclined either to the right or the left; one of their eyes turned inward, and the other directly up to the zenith. Their outward garments were adorned with the figures of suns, moons, and stars; interwoven with those of fiddles, flutes, harps, and trumpets, and many more instruments of music unknown to us in Europe.

I observed, here and there, many in the habit of servants, with a blown bladder fastened like a flail to the end of a short stick, which they carried in their hands. In each bladder was a small quantity of dried peas, or little pebbles, as I was afterwards informed. With these bladders they now and then flapped the mouths and ears of those who stood near them, of which practice I could not then guess the meaning.

It seems the minds of these people are so taken up with studies, that they neither can speak, nor attend to the talk of others, without being roused by some external touch upon the organs of speech and hearing; for which reason, those persons who are able to afford it always keep a flapper (the original is *climenole*) in their family as one of their domestics; nor even walk abroad, or make visits, without him. And the business of this officer is, when two or three more persons are in company, gently to strike with his bladder the mouth of him who is to speak, and the right ear of him or them to whom the speaker addresseth himself. This flapper is likewise employed to attend his master in his walks, and now and then to give him a soft flap on his eyes;

because he is always so wrapped up in thought, that he is in danger of falling down every precipice, and bouncing his head against every post; and in the streets of jostling others, or being jostled himself, into the kennel.

While my escort were conducting me up the stairs to the top of the island, and from thence to the royal palace, they forgot several times what they were about, and left me to myself, till their memories were again roused by their flappers; for they appeared altogether unmoved by the sight of my foreign face and habit, and by the shouts of the vulgar, whose thoughts and minds were more disengaged.

At last we entered the palace, and proceeded into the royal chamber, where I saw the King seated on his throne, attended on each side by persons of high rank. Before the throne was a large table filled with globes and spheres and mathematical instruments of all kinds. His Majesty took not the least notice of us, although our entrance was not without noise. But he was then deep in a problem; and we waited at least an hour before he could solve it. There stood by him, on each side, a young page with flaps in their hands, and when they saw he was at leisure, one of them gently struck his mouth, and the other his right ear; at which he started like one awaked on the sudden, and looking towards me and the company I was in, recollected the occasion of our coming, whereof he had been informed before.

He spoke some words, whereupon a young man with a flap came up to my side and flapped me gently on the right ear; but I made signs, as well as I could, that I had no need for such an instrument, which, as I afterwards found, gave His Majesty and the whole Court a very mean opinion of my understanding. The King, as far as I could guess, asked me several questions, and I addressed myself to him in all the languages I had.

When it was found that I could neither understand nor be understood, I was conducted by the King's order to a room in his palace (this prince being famous for his hospitality to strangers), where two servants were appointed to attend me.



“There stood by him on each side a young page with flaps in their hands.”

My dinner was brought, and four persons of quality, whom I remembered to have seen very near the King's person, did me the honour to dine with me.

While we were at dinner, I made bold to ask the names of several things in their language, and those noble persons, by the help of their flappers, delighted

to give me answers, hoping to raise my admiration of their great abilities, if I could be brought to converse with them. I was soon able to call for bread and drink, or whatever else I wanted.

After dinner my company withdrew, and a person was sent to me by the King's order, attended by a flapper. He brought with him pen, ink, and paper, and three or four books, giving me to understand by signs that he was sent to teach me the language. We sat together four hours, in which time I wrote down a great number of words in columns, with the translations over against them; I likewise made a shift to learn several short sentences. And thus, in a few days, by the help of a very faithful memory, I got some insight into their language.

The word, which I interpret the flying or floating island, is *Laputa*, whereof I could never learn the true etymology.

Those to whom the King had entrusted me, observing how ill I was clad, ordered a tailor to come next morning, and take my measure for a suit of clothes. This person did his work after a different manner from those of his trade in Europe. He first took my altitude by a quadrant, and then, with rule and compasses, described the dimensions and outlines of my whole body, all which he entered upon paper; and, in six days, brought my clothes very ill made, and quite out of shape, by happening to mistake a figure in the calculation. But my comfort was, that I observed such accidents very frequent, and little regarded.

During my confinement for want of clothes, and by a sickness that held me some days longer, I much enlarged my dictionary; and when I went next to Court, was able to understand many things the King spoke, and to return him some kind of answers. His Majesty had given orders that the island should move north-east and by

east, to the vertical point over Lagado, the capital of the whole kingdom below, upon firm earth. It was about ninety leagues distant, and our voyage lasted four days and a half. I did not feel in the least the motion made in the air by the island.

In our journey towards Lagado, the capital city, His Majesty ordered that the island should stop over certain towns and villages, from whence he might receive the petitions of his subjects. And, to this purpose, several pack-threads were let down, with small weights at the bottom. On these pack-threads the people strung their petitions, which mounted up directly like the scraps of paper fastened by schoolboys at the end of the string that holds their kite. Sometimes we received wine and victuals from below, which were drawn up by pulleys.

Their houses are very ill built, the walls bevel, without one right angle in any apartment; and this defect ariseth from the contempt they bear to practical geometry, which they despise as vulgar; those instructions they give being too refined for the understanding of their workmen. And although they are skilful enough upon a piece of paper, in the management of the rule, the pencil, and the divider, yet, in the common actions and conduct of life, I have not seen a more clumsy and unhandy people, nor so slow and perplexed in their ideas upon all other subjects, except those of mathematics and music.

They are so taken up with sun, moon, and stars, and so full of fears of dangers from that quarter, that they can neither sleep quietly in their beds, nor have any relish for the common pleasures of life. When they meet a friend in the morning, the first question is about the sun's health, how he looked at his setting and rising, and what hopes they have to avoid the stroke of the approaching comet.

I desired leave of the prince to see the sights of the island, which he was pleased to grant, and ordered my tutor to attend me. I chiefly wanted to know to what cause in art or in nature it owed its several motions.

The Flying or Floating Island is exactly circular, its diameter 7837 yards, or about four miles and a half-and consequently contains ten thousand acres. It is three hundred yards thick. The bottom, or under surface, which appears to those who view it from below, is one even regular plate of adamant, shooting up to the



“The Flying or Floating Island is exactly circular.”

height of about two hundred yards. Above it lie the several minerals, in their usual order, and over all is a coat of rich mould, ten or twelve feet deep.

At the centre of the island there is a chasm, about fifty yards in diameter, from whence the astronomers descend into a large dome, which is therefore called *Flandona Gagnole*, or the Astronomer's Cave, situated at the depth of a hundred yards beneath the upper surface of the adamant. In this cave are twenty lamps always burning, which, from the reflection of the adamant, cast a strong light into every part. The place is stored with sextants, quadrants, telescopes, and other instruments. But the greatest curiosity, upon which the fate of the island depends, is a loadstone of a huge size, in shape

like a weaver's shuttle. It is in length six yards, and in the thickest part at least three yards over. This magnet is poised so exactly that the weakest hand can turn it. By means of it, the island is made to rise and fall, and move from one place to another. For the stone is endued at one of its sides with an attractive power, and at the other with a repulsive. Upon placing the magnet erect, with its attracting end towards the earth, the island descends; but when the repelling extremity points downwards, the island mounts directly upwards. When the position of the stone is oblique, the motion of the island is so too.

This loadstone is under the care of certain astronomers, who, from time to time, give it such positions as the monarch directs. They spend the greatest part of their lives in observing the heavenly bodies, which they do by the help of glasses, far excelling ours in goodness. For although their largest telescopes do not exceed three feet, they magnify much more than those of a hundred with us, and show the stars with greater clearness.

The King would be the most absolute prince in the universe, if he could but prevail on a ministry to join with him; but these having their estates below on the continent, and considering that the office of a favourite is very uncertain, would never consent to the enslaving of their country.

If any town should engage in rebellion or mutiny, or refuse to pay the usual tribute, the King hath two methods of reducing them to obedience. The first, and the mildest course is, by keeping the island hovering over such a town, and the lands about it, whereby he can deprive them of the benefit of the sun and the rain, and so afflict the inhabitants with dearth and diseases. And if the crime deserve it, they are at the same time pelted from above with great stones, against which they

have no defence but by creeping into cellars or caves, while the roofs of their houses are beaten to pieces. But if they still continue obstinate, or offer to rebel, he proceeds to the last remedy, by letting the island drop directly upon their heads, which makes a general destruction both of houses and men. However, this is a step which the prince is seldom driven to take, neither indeed is he willing to do so; nor dare his ministers advise him to an action, which as it would render them hateful to the people, so it would be a great damage to their own estates, which lie all below; for the island is the King's domain.

By a fundamental law of this realm, neither the King, nor the Queen, nor either of his two elder sons, are permitted to leave the island.

Although I cannot say that I was ill-treated in this island, yet I must confess I thought myself too much neglected, not without some degree of contempt.

I had obtained, by hard study, a good degree of knowledge in their language; I was weary of being confined to an island where I received so little respect, and resolved to leave it at the first chance.

There was a great lord at Court, nearly related to the King, and for that reason alone, used with respect. He was reckoned the most ignorant and stupid person among them. He had done many services for the crown, was able and honourable; but so ill an ear had he for music, that his enemies reported that he had been often known to beat time in the wrong place; neither could his tutors, without great difficulty, teach him the most easy proposition in the mathematics. He was pleased to show me many marks of favour, often did me the honour of a visit, desired to be informed in the affairs of Europe, the laws and customs, the manners and learning of the several countries where I had travelled. He had

two flappers attending him for state, but never made use of them, except at Court, and in visits of ceremony, and would always command them to withdraw when we were alone together.

I begged this illustrious person to plead in my behalf with His Majesty for leave to depart, which he accordingly did, as he was pleased to tell me, with regret; for, indeed, he had made me several very good offers, which, however, I refused, with many thanks.

On the 16th day of February I took leave of His Majesty and the Court. The King made me a present to the value of about two hundred pounds English, and my protector, his kinsman, as much more, together with a letter to a friend of his in Lagado, the capital; the island being then hovering over a mountain about two miles from it, I was let down from the lowest gallery in the same manner as I had been taken up.

The continent, as far as it is subject to the monarch of the Flying Island, passes under the general name of *Balnibarbi*; and the capital, as I said before, is called *Lagado*. I felt some little pleasure in finding myself on firm ground. I walked to the city without any concern, being clad like one of the natives, and able by this time to converse with them. I soon found out the person's house to whom I was directed, presented my letter from his friend the grandee in the island, and was received with much kindness. This great lord, whose name was Munodi, ordered me a room in his own house, where I stayed during my visit.

The next morning after my arrival, he took me in his chariot to see the town, which is about half the bigness of London; but the houses very strangely built, and most of them out of repair. The people in the streets walked fast, looked wild, their eyes fixed, and were generally in rags.

This lord Munodi was a person of the first rank, and had been some years governor of Lagado. When we returned to his palace, he asked me how I liked the building, and what quarrel I had with the dress and



“The people in the streets walked fast and looked wild.”

looks of his servants? This he might safely do; because everything about him was grand, regular, and elegant. I answered that His Excellency's household was free from those defects which folly and beggary had produced in others. He said, if I would go with him to his country house, about twenty miles distant, where his estate lay, there would be more leisure for this kind of conversation.

I told him that I was entirely at his disposal; and so we set out next morning.

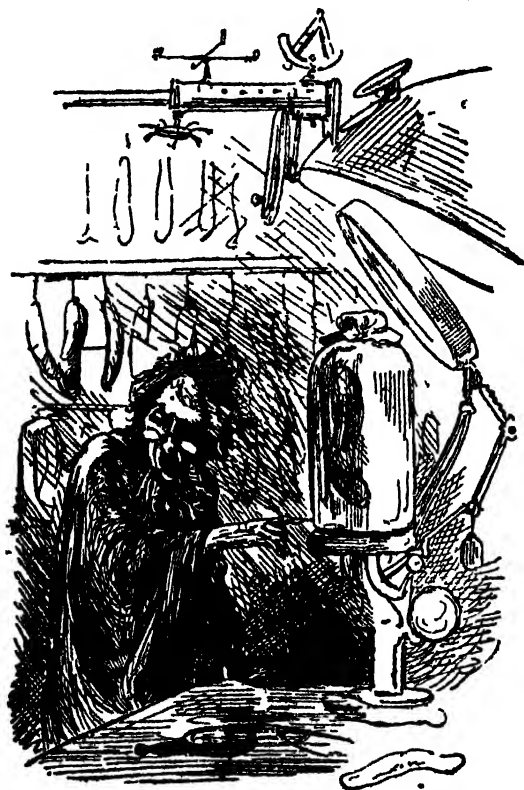
During our journey His Excellency told me that about forty years ago, certain persons went up to Laputa, either upon business or pleasure, and after five months' stay, came back with a very little smattering in mathematics, but full of notions picked up in that airy region. That these persons, upon their return, began to dislike the way things were done below, and fell into schemes of putting all arts, sciences, and languages upon a new foot. To this end, they got a royal patent for setting up an academy in Lagado; and the whim found so much favour among the people, that there is not a town of any standing in the kingdom without such an academy.

His lordship added, that he would not, by any further particulars, prevent the pleasure I should certainly take in viewing the grand academy, whither he was resolved I should go.

This academy is not an entire single building, but a row of several houses on both sides of a street which, growing waste, was bought and set apart to that use. I was received very kindly by the warden, and went for many days to the academy. Every room hath in it one or more persons; and, I believe, I could not be in fewer than five hundred rooms.

The first man I saw was of a meagre aspect, with sooty hands and face, his hair and beard long, ragged, and singed in several places. He had been eight years upon a project for extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers, which were to be put into sealed vials, and let out to warm the air in raw cold summers. He told me he did not doubt, in eight years more, he should be able to supply the governor's gardens with sunshine at a reasonable rate.

I saw another at work to melt ice into gunpowder, who likewise showed me a treatise he had written showing that fire could be beaten into any shape, like metal.



“He had been eight years upon a project for extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers.”

There was a clever architect, who had invented a new way of building houses, by beginning at the roof, and working downwards to the foundation; this plan, he

pointed out, was followed by those two prudent insects, the bee and the spider.

In another room, I was highly pleased with an inventor who had found a device of ploughing the ground with hogs, to save the costs of ploughs, cattle, and labour. The method is this: In an acre of ground you bury, at six inches distance, and eight deep, a quantity of acorns, dates, chestnuts, and other things, whereof these animals are fondest; then you drive six hundred or more of them into the field, where in a few days, they will root up the whole ground in search of their food, and make it fit for sowing. It is true, upon trying this plan, they found the cost and trouble very great, and they had little or no crop. However, it is not doubted that this invention may yet be greatly improved.

I visited many other rooms, but, as I wish to save time, I shall not trouble my reader with all the strange things I observed.

We crossed a walk to the other part of the academy, and here the first professor I saw was in a very large room, with forty pupils about him. After salutation, seeing me to look closely at a frame, which took up the greatest part of both the length and breadth of the room, he said, perhaps I might wonder to see him so employed. By this contrivance, he said, the most ignorant person, at a reasonable charge, and with a little bodily labour, might write books in philosophy, poetry, politics, law, mathematics, and theology, without the least help from genius or study. He then led me to the frame, about the sides whereof all his pupils stood in ranks. It was twenty foot square, placed in the middle of the room. The surface was made of several bits of wood, about the bigness of a die, but some larger than others. They were all linked together by slender wires. These bits of wood were covered, on every square, with

paper pasted on them; and on these papers were written all the words of their language, in their several moods, tenses, and declensions, but without any order. The professor then desired me to observe, for he was going to set his engine at work. The pupils, at his command, took each of them hold of an iron handle, whereof there were forty fixed round the edges of the frame, and giving them a sudden turn, the whole order of the words was changed. He then commanded six-and-thirty of the lads to read the several lines softly, as they appeared upon the frame; and where they found three or four words together that might make part of a sentence, they dictated to the four remaining boys, who were scribes. This work was repeated three or four times, and, at every turn, the engine was so contrived, that the words shifted into new places, as the square bits of wood moved upside down.

We next went to the school of language, where three professors sat in consultation upon improving that of their own country.

The first project was to shorten discourse, by cutting words of many syllables into one, and leaving out verbs and participles, because, in reality, all things imaginable are but nouns.

The other was a scheme for doing away with all words whatsoever, and this was urged as a great advantage in point of health as well as brevity. Since words are only names for things, it would be more convenient, said they, for all men to carry about them such things as were needed to express the particular business they are to discourse on. And this invention would certainly have taken place, to the great ease as well as health of the subject, if the women, together with the vulgar and ignorant, had not threatened to raise a rebellion, unless they might be allowed the liberty to speak with their

tongues, after the manner of their ancestors; such constant enemies to science are the common people. However, many of the most learned and wise adhere to the new scheme of expressing themselves by things. I have often beheld two of those sages almost sinking under the weight of their packs, like pedlars among us; who, when they met in the street, would lay down their loads, open their sacks, and hold conversation for an hour together, then put up their implements, help each other to resume their burthens, and take their leave.

I was at the mathematical school, where the master taught his pupils after a method scarce imaginable to us in Europe. The proposition and demonstration were fairly written on a thin wafer, with ink made of a certain tincture. This the student was to swallow upon a fasting stomach, and for three days following ate nothing but bread and water. As the wafer digested, the tincture mounted to his brain, bearing the proposition along with it. But the success hath not hitherto been great.

I saw nothing in this country that could invite me to a longer continuance, and began to think of returning home to England. I hired two mules, with a guide, to show me the way, and carry my small baggage. I took leave of my noble protector, who had shown me so much favour, and made me a generous present at my departure.

My journey was without any accident or adventure worth relating. I arrived at the port of Maldonada, where, after a fortnight's waiting, a ship was ready to sail for Luggnagg. Two gentlemen were so generous and kind as to furnish me with provisions, and see me on board. I was a month in this voyage. We had one violent storm, and had to steer westward to get into the trade-wind, which holds for above sixty leagues. On the 21st of April, 1708, we sailed into the river of

Clumegnig, which is a seaport town at the south-east point of Luggnagg. We cast anchor within a league of the town, and made a signal for a pilot. Two of them came on board in less than half an hour, by whom we were guided between certain shoals and rocks, which are very dangerous in the passage, to a large basin, where



"I gave him a short account of some particulars "

a fleet may ride in safety within a cable's length of the town wall.

Some of our sailors had informed the pilots that I was a stranger and a great traveller; whereof these gave notice to a custom-house officer, by whom I was examined very strictly upon my landing. This officer spoke to me in the language of Balnibarbi, which is

generally understood in that town, especially by seamen and those employed in the customs. The officer said, I must be confined till he could receive orders from Court; for which he would write at once, and hoped to receive an answer in a fortnight. I was carried to a convenient lodging, with a sentry placed at the door; however, I had the liberty of a large garden, and was treated kindly enough, being maintained all the time at the king's charge. I was invited by several persons, chiefly out of curiosity, because it was reported that I came from countries very remote, of which they had never heard.

I hired a young man, who came in the same ship, to be an interpreter; he was a native of Luggnagg, but had lived some years at Maldonada, and was a perfect master of both languages. By his assistance, I was able to hold a conversation with those who came to visit me; but this consisted only of their questions, and my answers.

The despatch came from Court about the time we expected. It contained a warrant for conducting me and my retinue to the capital.

The Luggnaggians are a polite and kindly people; and although they are not without some share of that pride which is found in all eastern countries, yet they show themselves courteous to strangers, especially such who are favoured by the Court. I had many friends among persons of the best fashion, and having always my interpreter at hand, the conversation we had was not disagreeable.

One day, in much good company, I was asked by a person of quality, whether I had seen any of their *struldbrugs*, or immortals? I said I had not; and desired he would explain to me what he meant by such a name, applied to a mortal creature. He told me that

sometimes, though very rarely, a child happened to be born in a family with a round red spot in the forehead, just over the left eyebrow, which was a sure mark that it should never die. The spot, as he described it, was about the size of a silver threepence, but in the course of time grew larger and changed its colour; for at twelve years old it became green, so continued till five-and-twenty, then turned to a deep blue; at five-and-forty it grew coal-black and as large as an English shilling, but never changed any more. He said, these births were so rare, that he did not believe there could be above eleven hundred *struldbrugs*, of both sexes, in the whole kingdom, of which he supposed about fifty to be in the capital, and, among the rest, a young girl born about three years ago; that these productions were not peculiar to any family, but a mere effect of chance, and the children of the *struldbrugs* themselves were equally mortal with the rest of the people.

I freely own myself to have been struck with delight upon hearing this account: and the person who gave it me happening to understand the Balnibarbian language, which I spoke very well, I could not keep silence. I cried out, as in a rapture. Happy nation, where every child has at least a chance of being immortal! Happy people, who enjoy so many living examples of ancient virtue, and have masters ready to instruct them in the wisdom of all former ages! But happiest, beyond all, are those excellent *struldbrugs*, who, born exempt from that universal calamity of human nature, have their minds free, without the weight and depression of spirits caused by the continual fear of death!

I enlarged upon many other topics, which the natural desire of endless life could easily furnish me with. When I had ended, and the sum of my discourse had been interpreted to the rest of the company, there was a good

deal of talk among them in the language of the country, not without some laughter at my expense. At last, the same gentleman who had been my interpreter said, he was desired by the rest to set me right in a few mistakes into which I had fallen.

He then gave me a full account of the *struldbrugs* among them. He said, they commonly acted like mortals, till about thirty years old; after which, by degrees, they grew more and more dejected, till they came to fourscore. When they came to fourscore years, which is reckoned the limit of life in this country, they had not only all the follies and infirmities of other old men, but many more, which arose from the dreadful prospect of never dying. Envy and impotent desires are their chief passions. But those objects against which their envy seems mostly directed, are the pleasures of the younger sort, and the deaths of the old. By reflecting on the former, they find themselves cut off from all joy; and whenever they see a funeral, they lament that others are gone to a harbour of rest at which they themselves never can hope to arrive.

As soon as they have completed eighty years they are looked on as dead in law; their heirs succeed to their estates, only a small pittance is kept for their support; and the poor ones are maintained at the public charge.

At ninety they lose their teeth and hair, they do not know one taste from another, but eat and drink whatever they can get, without relish or appetite. The diseases they were subject to still continue. In talking, they forget the common names of things, and the names of persons, even of those who are their nearest friends and relations. For the same reason, they never can amuse themselves with reading, because their memory will not serve to carry them from the beginning of a sentence to the end.

The language of this country being always upon the flux, the *struldbrugs* of one age do not understand those of another; neither are they able, after two hundred years, to hold any conversation (further than by a few general words) with their neighbours, the mortals; and thus they live like foreigners in their own country.

This was the account given me of the *struldbrugs*, as near as I can remember. I afterwards saw five or six of different ages, the youngest not above two hundred years old, who were brought to me at several times by some of my friends; but although they were told that I was a great traveller, and had seen all the world, they had not the least curiosity to ask me a question; only desired I would give them *slumskudask*, or a token of remembrance; which is a modest way of begging, to avoid the law, that strictly forbids it, because they are provided for by the public, although indeed with a very scanty allowance.

The reader will easily believe that, from what I had heard and seen, my keen appetite for perpetuity of life was much abated. I grew heartily ashamed of the pleasing visions I had formed; and thought no tyrant could invent a death, into which I would not run with pleasure from such a life.

I thought this account of the *struldbrugs* might be some entertainment to the reader, because it seems to be a little out of the common way; at least I do not remember to have met the like in any book of travels that hath come to my hands.

His Majesty having often pressed me to accept some employment in his Court, and finding me determined to return to my native country, was pleased to give me his licence to depart.

On the 6th of May, 1709, I took a solemn leave of His Majesty and all my friends. This prince was so gracious

as to order a guard to conduct me to Glanguenstald, which is a royal port to the south-west part of the island. In six days I found a vessel ready to set sail.

Nothing happened worth mentioning in the voyage home. We sailed with a fair wind to the Cape of Good Hope, where we stayed only to take in fresh water. On the 10th of April, 1710, we arrived safe at Amsterdam, having lost only three men by sickness in the voyage, and a fourth, who fell from the foremast into the sea, not far from the coast of Guinea. From Amsterdam I soon after set sail for England, in a small vessel belonging to that city.

On the 16th of April we put in at the Downs. I landed the next morning, and saw, once more, my native country, after an absence of five years and six months complete. I went straight to Redriff, where I arrived the same day at two in the afternoon, and found my wife and family in good health.

A VOYAGE TO THE COUNTRY OF THE HOUYHNHNMS

I stayed at home with my wife and children about five months, in a very happy condition, if I could have learned the lesson of knowing when I was well. I left my poor wife, and accepted a good offer made me to be captain of the *Adventure*, a stout merchantman of 350 tons: for I understood navigation well, and had grown weary of a surgeon's employment at sea. We set sail from Portsmouth upon the 7th day of September, 1710.

I had several men died in my ship of fevers, so that I was forced to get recruits out of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, where I touched, by the direction of the merchants who employed me; which I had soon too much cause to repent; for I found afterwards that most of them had been buccaneers. I had fifty hands on board; and my orders were, that I should trade with the Indians in the South Sea, and make what discoveries I could. These rogues whom I had picked up got round my other men, and they all formed a plot to seize the ship and make me prisoner; which they did one morning, rushing into my cabin, and binding me hand and foot, threatening to throw me overboard if I offered to stir. They sailed many weeks, and traded with the Indians; but I knew not what course they took, being kept a close prisoner in my cabin, and expecting nothing less than to be murdered, as they often threatened me.

Upon the 9th day of May, 1711, one James Welch

came down to my cabin, and said he had orders from the captain to set me ashore. I pleaded with him, but in vain; neither would he so much as tell me who their new captain was. They forced me into the long-boat, letting me put on my best suit of clothes, which were as good as new, and take a small bundle of linen, but no



"These rogues all formed a plot to seize the ship and make me prisoner."

arms, except my hanger; and they were so civil as not to search my pockets, into which I put what money I had, with some other little necessities. They rowed about a league, and then set me down on a strand. I desired them to tell me what country it was. They all swore they knew no more than myself; but said that the captain (as they called him) was resolved, after they sold the lading, to get rid of me in the first place where they could discover land. They pushed off at once, advising

me to make haste, for fear of being overtaken by the tide, and so bade me farewell.

In this desolate condition I advanced forward, and soon got upon firm ground, where I sate down on a bank to rest myself, and consider what I had best to do. When I was a little refreshed, I went up into the



"In this desolate condition I sate down on a bank

country, resolving to deliver myself to the first savages I should meet, and purchase my life from them by some bracelets, glass rings, and other toys, which sailors usually provide themselves with in those voyages, and whereof I had some about me.

The land was divided by long

rows of trees, not regularly planted, but naturally growing; there was great plenty of grass, and several fields of oats. I walked very warily, for fear of being surprised or suddenly shot with an arrow from behind, or on either side. I fell into a beaten road, where I saw many tracks of human feet, and some of cows, but most of horses.

At last I beheld several animals in a field, and one or two of the same kind sitting in trees. Their shape was very singular and deformed, which made me a little uneasy, so that I lay down behind a thicket to observe

them better. Some of them coming forward near the place where I lay, gave me a chance of marking their form. Their heads and breasts were covered with a thick hair, some frizzled, and others lank; they had beards like goats, and a long ridge of hair down their backs, and the fore-parts of their legs and feet; but the rest of their bodies was bare, so that I might see their skins, which were of a brown buff colour. They had no tails. They often sate on the ground, as well as lying down, and often stood on their hind-feet. They climbed high trees as nimbly as a squirrel, for they had strong extended claws before and behind, ending in sharp points, and hooked. They would often spring, and bound and leap, with great agility. The females were not so large as the males; they had long lank hair on their head, but none on their faces, nor anything more than a sort of down on the rest of their bodies. The hair of both sexes was of several colours, brown, red, black, and yellow. Upon the whole, I never beheld, in all my travels, so disagreeable an animal, nor one for which I naturally conceived so strong a dislike. So that, thinking I had seen enough, I got up and followed the beaten road, hoping it might direct me to the cabin of some Indian.

I had not gone far when I met one of these creatures full in my way, and coming up directly to me. The ugly monster, when he saw me, distorted several ways every feature of his visage, and stared, as at an object he had never seen before; then coming nearer, lifted up his fore-paw, whether out of curiosity or mischief, I could not tell: but I drew my hanger, and gave him a good blow with the flat side of it; for I durst not strike him with the edge, fearing the inhabitants might be provoked against me, if they should come to know that I had killed or maimed any of their cattle. When the beast

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

felt the smart, he drew back, and roared so loud, that a herd of at least forty came flocking about me from the next field, howling, and making odious faces; but I ran to the body of a tree, and leaning my back against it, kept them off by waving my hanger.

In the midst of this distress, I observed them all to run away on a sudden as fast as they could; at which I



“This ugly monster, approaching nearer, lifted up his fore-paw

ventured to leave the tree, and pursue the road, wondering what it was that could put them into this fright. But looking on my left hand, I saw a horse walking softly in the field, which my persecutors having soon discovered, was the cause of their flight. The horse started a little when he came near me, but soon recovering himself, looked full in my face with manifest token of wonder. He viewed my hands and feet, walking round me several times. I would have kept on my

journey, but he placed himself directly in the way, yet, looking with a very mild aspect, never offering the least violence.

We stood gazing at each other for some time; at last I took the boldness to reach my hand towards his neck, meaning to stroke it, using the common style and whistle of jockeys when they are going to handle a strange horse. But this animal seemed to receive my civilities with disdain, shook his head, and bent his brows, softly raising up his right fore-foot to remove my hand. Then he neighed three or four times, but in so different a cadence, that I almost began to think he was speaking to himself in some language of his own.

While he and I were thus employed, another horse came up, who, applying himself to the first in a very formal manner, they gently struck each other's right hoof before, neighing several times by turns, and varying the sound, which seemed to be almost articulate. They went some paces off, as if it were to confer together, walking side by side, backward and forward, like persons deliberating upon some affair of weight.

I resolved to go forward, until I could discover some house or village, or meet with any of the natives, leaving the two horses to discourse together as they pleased. But the first, who was a dapple gray, observing me to steal off, neighed after me in so expressive a tone, that I fancied myself to understand what he meant; whereupon I turned back, and came near to him, to await his further commands, but hiding my fear as much as I could, for I began to be in some pain how this adventure might end; and the reader will easily believe I did not much like my present situation.

The two horses came up close to me, looking with great earnestness upon my face and hands. The gray steed rubbed my hat all round with his right fore-hoof,

and crushed it so much, that I was forced to adjust it better, by taking it off, and settling it again; whereat both he and his companion (who was a brown bay) appeared to be much surprised; the latter felt the lappet of my coat, and finding it to hang loose about me, they both looked with new signs of wonder. He



"The two horses came up close to me, looking with great earnestness upon my face and hands."

stroked my right hand, seeming to admire the softness and colour, but he squeezed it so hard between his hoof and his pastern, that I was forced to roar; after which they both touched me with all possible tenderness. They were greatly puzzled about

my shoes and stockings, which they felt very often, neighing to each other, and using various gestures.

Upon the whole, the behaviour of these animals was so orderly and rational, that I at last concluded they must needs be magicians, who had thus changed themselves into horses upon some design, and, seeing a stranger in the way, were resolved to amuse themselves with him, or perhaps were really amazed at the sight of a man so very different in habit, feature, and complexion

from those who might probably live in so remote a climate. Upon the strength of this reasoning, I ventured to address them. The two creatures stood silent while I spoke, seeming to listen with great attention; and, when I had ended, they neighed frequently towards each other, as if they were engaged in serious conversation.

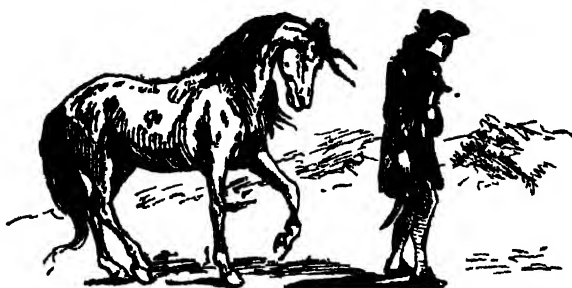
I could frequently make out the word *Yahoo*, which was repeated by each of them several times; and, although it was impossible for me to guess what it meant, yet, while the two horses were busy in conversation, I tried to practise this word upon my tongue; and as soon as they were silent, I boldly pronounced *Yahoo* in a loud voice, imitating at the same time, as near as I could, the neighing of a horse. At this they were both visibly surprised; and the gray repeated the same word twice, as if he meant to teach me the right accent; wherein I spoke after him as well as I could, and found myself improve every time, though very far from any degree of perfection. Then the bay tried me with a second word, much harder to be pronounced, but reducing it to the English spelling thus, *Houyhnhnm*. I did not succeed in this so well as in the former; but after two or three farther trials, I had better fortune, and they both appeared amazed at my capacity.

After some further discourse, the two friends took their leaves, with the same compliment of striking each other's hoof, and the gray made me signs that I should walk before him; wherein I thought it prudent to comply, till I could find a better director.

Having travelled about three miles, we came to a long kind of building, made of timber stuck in the ground, and wattled across; the roof was low, and covered with straw. I now began to be a little comforted, and took out some toys, which travellers usually

carry for presents to the savage Indians of America, and other parts, in hopes the people of the house would be thereby encouraged to receive me kindly.

The horse made me a sign to go in first. It was a large room, with a smooth clay floor, and a rack and manger extending the whole length on one side. There were three nags and two mares, not eating, but some of them sitting down upon their hams, which I very much



“The gray horse made me signs that I should walk before him.”

wondered at, but wondered more to see the rest busy about the house; these seemed but ordinary cattle. However, this made me reflect that a people who could so far civilize brute animals, must needs excel in wisdom all the nations of the world. The gray came in just after, and thereby prevented any ill treatment which the others might have given me. He neighed to them several times in a style of authority, and received answers.

Beyond this room there were three others, reaching the length of the house, to which you passed through three doors, opposite to each other, in the manner of a vista: we went through the second room towards the third. Here the gray walked in first, beckoning me to wait; I waited in the second room, and got ready my

presents for the master and mistress of the house: they were two knives, three bracelets of false pearls, a small looking-glass, and a bead necklace. The horse neighed three or four times, and I waited to hear some answers in a human voice, but I observed no other returns than in the same dialect, only one or two a little shriller than his. But I had no time to consider; for the gray horse came to the door, and made me a sign to follow him into the third room, where I saw a very comely mare, together with a colt and foal, sitting up on their haunches upon mats of straw, not badly made, and perfectly neat and clean.

The mare, soon after my entrance, rose from her mat, and coming up close, after having nicely observed my hands and face, gave me a most scornful look; then turning to the horse, I heard the word *Yahoo* often repeated betwixt them, the meaning of which word I could not then understand, although it was the first I had learned to pronounce. But I was soon better informed, for the horse beckoning to me with his head, led me out into a kind of court, where was another building at some distance from the house. Here we entered, and I saw three of those detestable creatures which I first met after my landing, feeding upon roots and the flesh of some animals, which I afterwards found to be that of asses and dogs, and now and then a cow, dead by accident or disease. They were all tied by the neck with strong withes fastened to a beam; they held their food between the claws of their fore-feet, and tore it with their teeth.

The master horse ordered a sorrel nag, one of his servants, to untie the largest of these animals, and take him into the yard. The beast and I were brought close together, and our faces closely compared, both by master and servant, who thereupon repeated several times the

word *Yahoo*. My horror and astonishment are not to be described when I observed in this abominable animal a perfect human figure: the face of it indeed was flat and broad, the nose depressed, the lips large, and the mouth wide; but these differences are common to all savage nations. The fore-feet of the Yahoo differed from my hands in nothing else but the length of the



'I observed in this abominable animal a perfect human figure.'

nails, the coarseness of the palms, and the hairiness on the backs. There was the same likeness between our feet, with the same differences which I knew very well, though the horses did not, because of my shoes and stock-

ings; the same in every part of our bodies, except as to hairiness and colour, which I have already described.

The great difficulty that seemed to stick with the two horses was, to see the rest of my body so very different in its appearance from that of a Yahoo; for which I was obliged to my clothes, whereof they had no idea. The sorrel nag offered me a root, which he held after the manner of holding things, between his hoof and pastern. I took it in my hand, and, having smelt it, returned it to him again as civilly as I could. He

brought out of the Yahoo's kennel a piece of ass's flesh; but it smelt so badly, that I turned from it with loathing; he then threw it to the Yahoo, by whom it was greedily devoured. He afterwards showed me a wisp of hay, and a bag full of oats; but I shook my head to show that neither of these were food for me. While we were thus engaged, I observed a cow passing by, whereupon I pointed to her, and made a sign as if to milk her. This had its effect; for he led me back into the house, and ordered a mare servant to open a room, where a good store of milk lay in earthen and wooden vessels, after a very orderly and cleanly manner. She gave me a large bowlful, of which I drank very heartily, and found myself well refreshed.



"I saw coming a kind of vehicle drawn like a sledge by four Yahoos."

About noon I saw coming towards the house a kind of vehicle drawn like a sledge by four Yahoos. There was in it an old steed, who seemed to be of quality; he alighted with his hind-feet forward, having by accident got a hurt in his left fore-foot. He came to dine with our horse, who received him with great civility. They dined in the best room, and had oats boiled in milk for the second course, which the old horse ate warm, but the rest cold. Their mangers were placed circular in the middle of the room,

and divided into several partitions, round which they sate on their haunches upon bosses of straw, each horse and mare eating its own hay, and its own mash of oats and milk. The behaviour of the young colt and foal was modest, and that of the master and mistress very cheerful and pleasant to their guest. The gray ordered me to stand by him; and much discourse passed between him and



"The gray ordered me to stand by him."

his friend about me, as I found by the stranger's often looking on me, and the frequent repetition of the word Yahoo.

I happened to wear my gloves, which the master gray observing, seemed perplexed, as if wondering what I had done to my fore-feet. He put his hoof three or four times to them, as a sign that I should reduce them to their former shape; which I presently did, pulling

off both my gloves, and putting them into my pocket. This led to further talk: and I saw the company was pleased with my behaviour, whereof I soon found the good effects. I was ordered to speak the few words I understood; and while they were at dinner, the master taught me the names for oats, milk, fire, water, and some others, which I could readily pronounce after him, having from my youth great ease in learning languages.

When dinner was done, the master horse took me aside, and by signs and words made me understand the concern he was in, that I had nothing to eat. Oats

in their tongue are called *hlunnh*. This word I pronounced two or three times; for although I had refused them at first, yet, upon second thoughts, I considered that I could contrive to make of them a kind of bread, which might be enough, with milk, to keep me alive till I could make my escape to some other country, and to creatures of my own species.

The horse at once ordered a white mare servant of his family to bring me a good quantity of oats in a sort of wooden tray. These I heated before the fire, as well as I could, and rubbed them till the husks came off, which I made a shift to winnow from the grain: I ground and beat them between two stones, then took water, and made them into a paste or cake, which I toasted at the fire, and ate warm with milk. It was at first a very tasteless diet, though common enough in many parts of Europe, but grew tolerable by time; and having been often reduced to hard fare in my life, this was not the first proof I had made how easily nature is satisfied.

When it grew towards evening, the master horse ordered a place for me to lodge in: it was but six yards from the house, and separated from the stable of the Yahoos. Here I got some straw, and covering myself with my own clothes, slept very sound

My chief business was to learn the language, which my master (for so I shall henceforth call him) and his children, and every servant of his house, were desirous to teach me: for they looked upon it as a prodigy, that a brute animal should show such marks of reason. I pointed to everything, and asked the name of it, which I wrote down in my journal book when I was alone: and corrected my bad accent, by desiring those of the family to pronounce it often. In this a sorrel nag, one of the under-servants, was very ready to assist me.

My master was so eager that he spent many hours of his leisure in teaching me. He was sure (as he afterwards told me) that I must be a Yahoo, but it astonished him to find me so quick, polite, and clean, which were qualities quite unlike those of animals.

In about ten weeks' time I was able to understand most of his questions, and in three months could give



“I enquired the name of everything, which I wrote down in my journal book.”

him some fair answers. He was most curious to know from what part of the country I came, and how I was taught to imitate a rational creature; because the Yahoos (whom he saw I resembled in my head, hands, and face, which were all he could see), while they were cunning and inclined to mischief, were the most unteachable of all brutes.

I answered, that I came over the sea, from a far place, with many others of my own kind, in a great hollow vessel, made of the bodies of trees; that my companions

forced me to land on this coast, and then left me to shift for myself. It was with some difficulty, and by the help of many signs, that I brought him to understand me. He replied, that I must needs be mistaken, or that I said the thing which was not (for they have no word in their language to express lying or falsehood). He knew it was impossible that there could be a country beyond the sea, or that a parcel of brutes could move a wooden vessel whither they pleased upon water. He was sure no Houyhnhnm alive could make such a vessel, nor would trust Yahoos to manage it.

I told my master that I was at a loss for expression, but would improve as fast as I could; and hoped, in a short time, I should be able to tell him wonders. He was pleased to direct his own mare, his colt and foal, and the servants of the family, to take every chance of teaching me; and every day, for two or three hours, he was at the same pains himself.

Every night, when the family were gone to bed, it was my custom to strip, and cover myself with my clothes. It happened, one morning early, that my master sent for me by the sorrel nag, who was his valet. When he came I was fast asleep, my clothes fallen off on one side. I awaked at the noise he made, and observed him to deliver his message in some disorder; after which he went to my master, and in a great fright gave him a very confused account of what he had seen. This I soon found out; for going, as soon as I was dressed, to pay my respects, he asked me the meaning of what his servant had reported, that I was not the same thing when I slept as I appeared to be at other times.

I had hitherto kept the secret of my dress, in order to mark myself off, as much as I could, from the cursed race of Yahoos; but now I found it in vain to do so any longer. Besides, I considered that my clothes and shoes

would soon wear out—already they were shabby,—and must be supplied by something else, made from the hides of Yahoos, or other brutes; whereby the whole secret would be known. I therefore told my master, that in the country from whence I came, those of my kind always covered their bodies with the hairs of certain animals prepared by art, as well for decency as to guard against cold and heat.

Every day, when I waited on him, beside the trouble he was at in teaching, he would ask me several questions about myself, which I answered as well as I could; and by these means he had already received some general ideas, though very imperfect. It would be tedious to relate the steps by which I advanced to a more regular conversation; but the first account I gave of myself in any order and length was to this purpose:—

That I came from a very far country, as I had already tried to tell him, with about fifty more of my own kind; that we travelled upon the seas in a great hollow vessel made of wood, and larger than his honour's house. I described the ship to him in the best terms I could, and explained, by the help of my handkerchief, how it was driven forward by the wind. That, upon a quarrel among us, I was set on shore on this coast, where I walked forward, without knowing whither, till he delivered me from the Yahoos. He asked me who made the ship, and how it was possible that the Houyhnhnms of my country would leave it to be managed by brutes? My answer was, that I durst proceed no further in my relation, unless he would give me his word and honour that he would not be offended, and then I would tell him the wonders I had so often promised. He agreed; and I went on, by assuring him that the ship was made by creatures like myself; who, in all the countries I had travelled, as well as in my own, were the only governing

rational animals: and that, upon my arrival hither, I was as much astonished to see the Houyhnhnms act like rational beings, as he, or his friends, could be, in finding some marks of reason in a creature he was pleased to call a Yahoo; to which I owned my resemblance in every part, but could not account for their degraded and brutal nature.

My master heard me with signs of uneasiness in his face; because doubting, or not believing, are so little known in this country, that the inhabitants cannot tell how to behave themselves in such cases.

When I said that the Yahoos were the only governing animals in my country, which my master said was altogether past his conception, he desired to know whether we had Houyhnhnms among us, and what was their employment? I told him we had great numbers; that in summer they grazed in the fields, and in winter were kept in houses with hay and oats, where Yahoo servants were employed to rub their skins smooth, comb their manes, pick their feet, serve them with food, and make their beds.

It put me to the pains of many roundabout speeches to give my master a right idea of what I spoke. But it is impossible to express his noble resentment at our treatment of the Houyhnhnm race. He said, if it were possible there could be any country where Yahoos alone were gifted with reason, they certainly must be the governing animal; because reason will, in time, always prevail against brutal strength. But, considering the frame of our bodies, and especially of mine, he thought no creature of equal bulk was so little fitted to use that reason in the common offices of life. However, he would, as he said, debate the matter no further, because he was more desirous to know my own story, the country where I was born, and the several actions and events of my life before I came hither.

I said, my birth was of honest parents, in an island called England, which was remote from this country as many days' journey as the strongest of his honour's servants could travel in the annual course of the sun; that I was bred a surgeon, whose trade is to cure wounds and hurts in the body, gotten by accident or violence; that my country was governed by a female man, whom we called queen¹; that I left it to get riches, whereby I might maintain myself and family, when I should return; that, in my last voyage, I was commander of the ship, and had about fifty Yahoos under me, many of which died at sea, and I was forced to supply them by others picked out from several nations; that our ship was twice in danger of being sunk; the first time by a great storm, and the second by striking against a rock. Here my master interposed, by asking me, how I could persuade strangers, out of different countries, to venture with me, after the losses I had sustained, and the hazards I had run? I said, they were fellows of desperate fortunes, forced to fly from the places of their birth on account of their poverty or their crimes.

I had much ado to make him understand the nature of the crimes for which most of our crew had been forced to fly their country. This labour took up several days' conversation. He was wholly at a loss to know what could be the use or need of those vices: to clear up which, I tried to give him some ideas of the desire of power and riches; of the terrible effects of lust, intemperance, malice, and envy. All this I was forced to define and describe by putting of cases, and making of suppositions. After which, like one who was struck with something never seen or heard of before, he would lift up his eyes with wonder and indignation.

I might relate the substance of many conversations I

¹ These events are supposed to have happened in the time of Queen Anne.

had with my master during the greatest part of the time I had the honour to be in his service, but for brevity's sake I omit much more than is here set down.

When I had answered all his questions, and his curiosity seemed to be fully satisfied, he sent for me one morning early, and told me to sit down at some distance (an honour which he had never before granted me). He said, he had been thinking over my whole story, as far as it related both to myself and my country; that he looked upon us as a sort of animals, to whose share, by what chance he could not guess, some small pittance of reason had fallen, whereof we made no other use than, by its aid, to add to our natural vices, and to acquire new ones which nature had not given us.

Having lived three years in this country, the reader, I suppose, will expect that I should, like other travellers, give him some account of the manners and customs of its inhabitants, which it was indeed my chief study to learn.

As these noble Houyhnhnms are by nature inclined to all virtues, and have no ideas of what is evil in a rational creature, so their grand maxim is, to cultivate reason, and to be wholly governed by it.

Friendship and benevolence are the two chief virtues among the Houyhnhnms, and these not confined to particular objects, but universal to the whole race; for a stranger from the remotest part is equally treated with the nearest neighbour, and wherever he goes, looks upon himself as at home. They have no fondness for their colts or foals, but the care they take in educating them springs entirely from the dictates of reason.

In educating the youth of both sexes their method is admirable. These are not suffered to taste a grain of oats, except upon certain days, till eighteen years old; nor milk, but very rarely; and in summer they graze

two hours in the morning, and as long in the evening, which their parents likewise observe.

The Houyhnhnms train up their youth to strength, speed, and hardiness, by exercising them in running races up and down steep hills and over hard and stony grounds; and when they are all in a sweat, they are ordered to leap over head and ears into a pond or a river. Four times a year the youth of a certain district meet to show their powers in running and leaping, and other feats of strength and agility, where the victor is rewarded with a song made in his or her praise. On this festival the servants drive a herd of Yahoos into the field, laden with hay and oats and milk, for a repast to the Houyhnhnms; after which these brutes are at once driven back again, for fear of being noisome to the assembly.

Every fourth year, at the spring equinox, there is a council representing the whole nation, which meets in a plain about twenty miles from our house, and lasts about five or six days. Here they enquire into the state of the several districts; whether they have enough hay or oats, or cows or Yahoos; and wherever there is any want (which is but seldom), it is at once made up by the consent and contribution of all.

I could, with great pleasure, enlarge further upon the manners and virtues of this excellent people; but intending in a short time to publish a volume by itself upon that subject, I refer the reader thither, and in the meantime proceed to relate my own sad catastrophe.

In the midst of all this happiness, and when I looked upon myself to be fully settled for life, my master sent for me one morning a little earlier than his usual hour. I saw by his face that he was in some doubt, and at a loss how to begin what he had to speak. After a short silence, he told me he did not know how I would take

what he was going to say. That in the last general assembly, when the affair of the Yahoos was entered upon, the members of council had taken offence at his keeping a Yahoo (meaning myself) in his family, more like a Houyhnhnm than a brute animal; that he was known often to converse with me, as if he could receive some pleasure in my company; that such a practice was not agreeable to reason or nature, nor a thing ever heard of before among them. The assembly did therefore exhort him either to employ me like the rest of my kind, or command me to swim back to the place from whence I came.

My master added that he was daily pressed by the Houyhnhnms of the neighbourhood to have the assembly's exhortation carried out, which he could not put off much longer. He doubted it would be impossible for me to swim to another country, and therefore wished I would contrive some sort of vehicle, like those I had described to him, that might carry me on the sea, in which work I should have the help of his own servants, as well as those of his neighbours. He finished by saying, that, for his own part, he could have been content to keep me in his service as long as I lived, because he found I had cured myself of some bad habits, by trying, as far as my inferior nature was able, to imitate the Houyhnhnms.

I was struck with the utmost grief and despair at my master's words; and being unable to support the agonies I was under, I fell into a swoon at his feet. When I came to myself, he told me that he thought I had been dead (for these people are subject to no such feebleness of nature). I answered in a faint voice that death would have been too great a happiness; for supposing I should escape with life, by some strange chance, how could I think of passing my days among Yahoos, and

slipping back into my old vices, for want of examples to lead and keep me within the paths of virtue?

My master gave me a few kind words in reply; allowed me the space of two months to make a boat; and ordered the sorrel nag, my fellow-servant (for so at this distance, I may presume to call him), to follow my instructions; because I told my master that his help would be enough, and I knew he had a tenderness for me.

I shall not trouble the reader with a description of my work: let it suffice to say, that in six weeks' time, with the help of the sorrel nag, who did the parts that required most labour, I finished a sort of Indian canoe, but much larger, covering it with the skins of Yahoos, well stitched together with hempen threads of my own making. My sail was likewise made of the skins of the same animal; but I made use of the youngest I could get, the older being too tough and thick; and I likewise provided myself with four paddles. I laid in a stock of boiled flesh, of rabbits and fowls, and took with me two vessels, one filled with milk, and the other with water.

I tried my canoe in a large pond near my master's house, and then corrected in it what was amiss, stopping all the chinks with Yahoo's tallow, till I found it staunch, and able to bear me and my freight; and when it was as complete as I could possibly make it, I had it drawn on a carriage very gently by Yahoos to the seaside, under the care of the sorrel nag and another servant.

When all was ready, and the day came for my departure, I took leave of my master and lady, and the whole family, mine eyes flowing with tears, and my heart quite sunk with grief. But his honour, out of curiosity, and perhaps (if I may speak it without vanity) partly out of kindness, was determined to see me in my

canoe, and got several of his neighbouring friends to go with him. I was forced to wait above an hour for the tide; and then observing the wind very fortunately bearing towards the island to which I intended to steer my course, I took a second leave of my master.

I paid my respects to the rest of the Houyhnhnms in his honour's company, then getting into my canoe, I pushed off from shore.

My design was, if possible, to discover some small island uninhabited, yet sufficient, by my labour, to furnish me with the means of life, which I would have thought a greater happiness than to be first minister in the politest court of Europe; so horrible, to my mind, was the idea of returning to live in the society, and under the government of Yahoos.

The wind was full west; and by six in the evening, I reckoned I had gone eastward at least eighteen leagues, when I spied a very small island about half a league off, which I soon reached. It was nothing but a rock with one creek, naturally arched by the force of tempests. Here I put in my canoe, and climbing a part of the rock, I could plainly see land to the east, extending from south to north. I lay all night in my canoe, and repeating my voyage early in the morning, I arrived in seven hours to the south-east point of New Holland.

I continued three days feeding on oysters and limpets to save my own provisions; and I luckily found a brook of good water, which gave me great relief.

On the fourth day venturing out to sea, I saw a sail to the north-north-east, which appearing every minute more visible, I was in some doubt whether I should wait for them or no: but at last my detestation of the Yahoo race prevailed, and turning my canoe, I sailed and paddled together to the south, and got into the same creek from whence I set out in the morning,

choosing rather to trust myself among barbarians, than live with European Yahoos. I drew up my canoe as close as I could to the shore, and hid myself behind a stone by the little brook, which, as I have already said, was good water.

The ship came within half a league of this creek, and



“At last they found me behind the stone.”

sent out her long-boat with vessels to take in fresh water (for the place, it seems, was very well known); but I did not observe it till the boat was almost on shore, and it was too late to seek another hiding-place. The seamen, at their landing, observed my canoe, and rummaging it all over, easily guessed that the owner could not be far off. Four of them, well armed, searched every cranny and lurking-hole, till at last they found me, flat on my face, behind the stone. They gazed a while in wonder at my strange dress: my coat made of skins, my wooden-soled shoes, and my furred stockings; from whence, how-

ever, they saw that I was not a native of the place, who all go naked. One of the seamen, in Portuguese, bid me rise, and asked who I was. I understood that language very well, and getting upon my feet, said, I was a poor Yahoo, banished from the Houyhnhnms, and desired they would please to let me depart. They wondered to hear me answer them in their own tongue, and saw by my fair skin I must be a European; but were at a loss to know what I meant by Yahoos and Houyhnhnms; and at the same time, fell a-laughing at my strange tone in speaking, which was like the neighing of a horse.

They were very curious to know my story, but I told them very little, and they all supposed that my misfortunes had impaired my reason. In two hours, the boat, which went loaden with vessels of water, returned with the captain's command to fetch me on board. I fell on my knees to preserve my liberty, but all was in vain; and the men, having tied me with cords, heaved me into the boat, from whence I was taken into the ship, and from thence into the captain's cabin.

We arrived at Lisbon, November 5, 1715. At our landing, the captain conveyed me to his own house.

In ten days the captain, to whom I had given some account of my domestic affairs, put it upon me, as a matter of honour and conscience, that I ought to return to my native country, and live at home with my wife and children. He told me there was an English ship in the port just ready to sail, and he would furnish me with all things necessary.

I complied at last, finding I could not do better, and I left Lisbon the 24th day of November, in an English merchantman. On the 5th of December, 1715, we cast anchor in the Downs about nine in the morning, and at three in the afternoon I got safe to my house at Redriff.

At the time I am writing, it is five years since my last

return to England: during the first year I could not endure my wife or children in my presence; the very smell of them was more than I could bear; much less could I suffer them to eat in the same room. To this hour they dare not presume to touch my bread, or drink out of the same cup; neither was I ever able to let one of them take me by the hand.

The first money I laid out was to buy two young horses, which I kept in a good stable; and, next to them, the groom is my greatest favourite; for I feel my spirits revived by the smell he contracts in the stable. My horses understand me fairly well; I converse with them at least four hours every day. They are strangers to bridle or saddle; they live in great amity with me, and friendship to each other

NOTES

A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT

1. Nottinghamshire, one of the Midland counties of England.

Cambridge University, one of the two great English universities.

the East and West Indies.

India and the adjacent islands and regions and the western lands discovered in the 15th and 16th centuries were formerly all known as *the Indies*, the western lands being supposed to be part of the eastern. When this was found not to be the case, the distinction of *East* and *West Indies* arose. By *West Indies* is now meant only the islands lying to the east of Central America.

the South Sea, the Pacific Ocean.

Bristol, a port in the south-west of England.

2. Van Diemen's Land, the old name of Tasmania, an island off the south-east coast of Australia. But perhaps it is rather the north part of Australia that is meant. The name remains in Cape Van Diemen. (Compare p. 48. It would seem reasonable to seek islands to the north-east of Australia rather than to the north-east of Tasmania.)

three leagues. A marine league is three nautical miles.

3. six inches high. It should be noted that Lilliput and its inhabitants are represented on the

scale of one inch to a foot. It will be seen that this is carried out with great accuracy.

4. buff jerkin, a close-fitting jacket made of buff-leather, i.e. a very stout kind of leather, of a dull whitish-yellow colour, made of ox-hide (originally of buffalo-hide).

5. his train, the skirt of his robe behind.

7. The Emperor. This is evidently the same as the King mentioned on p. 5.

8. in council, in consultation with his Privy Council or body of advisers.

9. engine, a machine or implement of any kind, i.e., here, the carriage on which Gulliver was conveyed.

pack-thread, stout twine such as is used for sewing or tying up packs or bundles.

accident, an occurrence simply, not, as now (and as on p. 13), an unfortunate or calamitous occurrence.

10. half-pike, a pike or spear with a shaft about half the length of that of a full-sized one.

offer to stir, try to stir, show signs of stirring.

13. Austrian lip. A projection of the lower jaw and lip was a family characteristic of the Arch-dukes of Austria.

The Emperor seems to have been intended to bear a general resemblance to King George I. In character and habits there is some likeness, but in person none.

15. lay on the ground, slept at night on the ground, i.e. without a bed.

16. the great meeting-place, the council-chamber in which the discussion was being carried on.

had board wages allowed them, i.e. they had to pay for their food out of additional wages allowed them for this purpose.

18. fobs, small pockets in the waistband of the breeches.

One great piece of coarse cloth, Gulliver's pocket-handkerchief.

a huge silver chest, his snuff-box.

19. a bundle, &c., his note-book or pocket-book (called *journal book* below, p. 23) tied round with string.

a sort of engine, &c., his comb.

a hollow pillar of iron, &c., a pocket pistol. The *huge pieces of iron* are the trigger and trigger-guard.

pieces of white and red metal, silver and copper coins.

two black pillars, Gulliver's razor and pocket-knife.

20. a wonderful kind of engine, his watch-key. The *globe* is, of course, his silver watch with its face covered with glass.

21. pieces of yellow metal, gold coins.

globes or balls, pistol-bullets.

black grains, gunpowder.

22. yeomen of the guard, armed attendants.

23. a pair of glasses, spectacles.

a pocket glass, a pocket telescope.

24. the country shows, entertainments special to the country, specially practised in Lilliput.

rope dancing. The arts of courtiers and politicians and the shifts resorted to in striving for and seeking to retain office and dignities are here satirized.

disgrace, deprivation of office, fall from favour.

the treasurer of the kingdom represents Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), who after holding various offices became Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury in 1715. He was the object of Swift's bitterest enmity.

the chief secretary for private affairs is perhaps intended for Earl Stanhope (1675-1721), who succeeded Walpole on his resignation in 1717.

25. one of the Emperor's cushions is said to represent the Duchess of Kendal, by whose influence Walpole was restored to office on Stanhope's death.

three fine silken threads. These represent the ribbons of the Orders of the Garter, the Bath, and the Thistle.

27. a great black substance, Gulliver's hat.

28. which quarters, which has its quarters, which is lodged.

pikes, spears.

advanced, raised, held up.

the cabinet, a select body or advisers.

the admiral of the kingdom perhaps represents John, Duke of Argyle (1678-1743), an enemy of Swift's.

20. was demanded, was requested or asked.

great seal, the seal used to authenticate royal grants, &c.

an express, a courier or messenger.

31. flanked, &c., defended on the outside by towers at intervals of ten feet.

32. includes, shuts in, encloses, forms the approach to.

apartments, sets of rooms.

Apartment formerly meant a set of rooms, not, as now, a single room.

33. the Empress represents Queen Anne (the predecessor of George I). On her death Swift lost all hope of advancement.

as flourishing a condition, &c., although we may appear to be in a flourishing condition.

faction, party strife or intrigue.

'High Heels' and 'Low Heels', the divisions of the Church of England known as High Church and Low Church, corresponding to the two great political parties known as Tory and Whig.

34. agreeable to, showing agreement or conformity with.

His Highness, the heir to the crown, represents the Prince of Wales, afterwards George II. He and his father were always in a state of enmity.

the larger end. By the Big-endians and Little-endians are meant the Roman Catholics and the Protestants.

35. one Emperor lost his life. Charles I, beheaded 1649.

another his crown. James II, who fled from the kingdom in 1688 and was replaced by William III.

fanned, fomented, promoted.

Blefuscu represents France, the constant refuge of the supporters of the claims to the English crown of James II and his successors (the Stewarts), who were Roman Catholics. Lilliput, of course, represents England.

36. my small glass, the pocket glass or telescope which had been in his secret pocket.

transports, ships for the conveyance of troops.

37. my tackling, the cable and iron bars.

38. fall foul of each other, collide with (and damage) each other.

39. by a side wind, indirectly, obliquely.

40. a mark of disaffection. This alludes to a charge brought by Walpole against his rival, Viscount Bolingbroke (1678-1751), of having been in treasonable correspondence with France while negotiating the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), by which the French war was brought to an end.

42. a close chair, a sedan chair, a box with a seat in which persons were carried by two bearers.

to set out that morning for Blefuscu. This seems to refer to Bolingbroke's flight to France shortly after the accession of George I. He had been plotting a restoration of the Stewarts.

44. tallest vessels, the largest and stoutest.

45. the articles against me, the charges made against him.

46. he was very glad of my resolve, because Gulliver's departure would remove causes of difference between the two Emperors. This alludes to the anxieties caused

to the French King by the plots of Bolingbroke and other refugees for the restoration of the Stewarts.

47. quilting, sewing several thick-
nesses together.

of the blood, of the royal blood,
descendants of the Emperor.

48. the lee side, the side shel-
tered from the wind.

Van Diemen's Land. See note
on p. 2.

49. the dear pledges, his wife
and children.

the Downs, the part of the sea
within the Goodwin Sands off the
east coast of Kent, a well-known
resort of shipping.

A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG

50. Surat, on the west coast of
India, about 200 miles north of
Bombay.

The Straits of Madagascar,
the channel between the island of
Madagascar, off the east coast of
Africa, and the mainland.

52. adventure, an occurrence or
event, something which happens.
On p. 38 the word is used in the
modern sense, a hazardous enter-
prise, a daring feat.

about twenty feet high. Brob-
dingnag and its inhabitants are re-
presented on the scale of one foot
to an inch. Compare note on p. 3.

53. a speaking-trumpet, a kind
of trumpet, chiefly used at sea,
contrived so as to carry the voice to
a great distance.

laid, beaten down.

54. pity, pitiable state, sad con-
dition.

meaning, intention, purpose.

55. my good star, his good for-
tune.

the lappet of his coat, the skirt
or flap.

56. hinds, farm servants.

a purse of gold, a purse contain-
ing gold coins.

57. my part, the best thing to be
done.

tender of, thoughtful for, fond of.
trencher, a plate or platter.

58. a small cider, a weak or
light cider, a fermented beverage
made from apples.

made three huzzas, gave three
cheers.

59. mastiff, a large kind of dog
often used as a watch-dog.

greyhound, a kind of dog with a
long slender body and long legs.

London Bridge, till the opening
of Westminster Bridge in 1750 the
only bridge in London over the
Thames.

Chelsea, a parish on the banks of
the Thames a considerable distance
above London Bridge.

61. my belt, the belt to which
his sword was attached.

of towardly parts, quick, clever.
her baby, her doll.

against night, for him to sleep
in at night.

62. mannikin, little man.

63. my reverence, a bow.

some mischief abroad, some-
thing ill going to happen to him.

64. the crier, the town-crier, who made proclamations and announcements.

at the sign of the Green Eagle, at an inn with a green eagle as a sign.

65. exercised as a pike, wielded like a spear.

vehicle, means of carrying, i.e. a box.

66. parts, accomplishments, skill. could make a shift, could manage.

67. gentleman-usher, a gentleman in attendance on the Queen.

this gracious princess, the Queen.

moidores, Portuguese gold coins.

68. preferred at Court, taken into the Queen's service.

wit, understanding.

69. sash - windows, windows with a pair of sashes or glazed wooden frames made to slide up and down.

a nice workman, one skilled in fine work.

70. baby-house, doll's house.

the two princesses royal, the Queen's daughters.

72. it might have gone very hard with me, I might have suffered seriously.

73. a progress, a journey in state.

74. like a sign, i.e. a sign hung outside an inn

75. the falls of Niagara, famous waterfalls between Lakes Erie and Ontario in North America.

76. relief, aid, succour.

having made a hard shift, having managed with difficulty.

or better, or more.

77. Shropshire, an English county on the borders of Wales.

a cordial, a reviving drink.

turn in, lie down.

A VOYAGE TO LAPUTA

79. a Cornish man, a native of Cornwall, the south-western extremity of England.

Tonquin, a province of Annam in south-east Asia.

a sloop, a small vessel with one mast rigged fore-and-aft. [p. 23.]

81. pocket glass. See note on

82. spy-glass, telescope.

84. their habit, their dress, their clothes.

polite, refined, elegant.

85. a blown bladder, a bladder inflated with air.

86. the kennel, the channel or gutter in a street or road.

the vulgar, the common people.

flaps, i.e. bladders.

88. a quadrant, an instrument in the form of a graduated quarter-circle for making angular measurements, especially for taking altitudes (i.e. estimating heights) in astronomy and navigation.

rule, a graduated ruler.

dictionary, vocabulary, stock of words (not, as now, a book containing a list of words).

89. bevel, slant, not at a right angle.

the divider, a kind of compasses for measuring small intervals.

90. adamant, a supposed rock or mineral, very hard.

sextants, instruments like a quadrant (see note on p. 88), but in the form of a graduated sixth of a circle.

a **loadstone**, a piece of magnetic mineral.

91. three yards over, three yards across from side to side.

92. to leave the island. This seems to be an allusion to the frequent visits of George I to Hanover. He was Elector or Sovereign of Hanover as well as King of England, and preferred Hanover to England.

93. protector, patron.

94. what quarrel I had, what fault he had to find.

95. upon a new foot, upon a new footing, based on new principles.

a **royal patent**, a royal grant, leave from the king.

an **academy**, an institution for the promotion of learning.

the **grand academy**, the chief or principal academy.

growing waste, becoming deserted.

the **warden**, the head or principal.

99. fairly writtē, written clearly.

101. convenient, suitable, fitting.

polite, refined, cultivated, well-bred. Compare this word on p. 84 and note there.

104. upon the flux, in a state of flux, continually changing.

105. to the south-west part, lying towards the south-west.

Amsterdam, the capital of Holland.

Guinea, a part of the West Coast of Africa.

Redriff, Rotherhithe, on the Thames below London.

A VOYAGE TO THE COUNTRY OF HOUVHININMS

(Pronounce *Whin'nims*)

106. Portsmouth, a port in the South of England.

Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, islands in the West Indies.

buccaneers, pirates.

Indians, natives of America or of the South Sea Islands.

107. the long-boat, the largest boat belonging to a sailing vessel.

hanger, a kind of short sword, originally hung from the belt.

the **lading**, the cargo.

111. jockeys, persons who ride or drive horses (now applied only to riders in horse-races).

112. pastern, a part of a horse's foot.

113. wattled, filled in with wicker-work.

114. cattle. This word is now generally confined to oxen, cows, &c.

115. nicely, minutely, with care.

116. to stick with, to cause trouble to, puzzle.

118. boses of straw, seats consisting of bundles of straw.

120. ~~New~~ Holland. the old name of Austr

121. I tagal.

